Hafa Adai!

CNMI team helps fight California fire. PAGE 2

Court keeps $10K cash bail for man charged with child abuse. PAGE 3

75¢

# Saipan Tribune

THE CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER

Volume XXX, Issue No. 204
WEDNESDAY OCTOBER 14, 2020
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**TINIAN ROAD PROJECT**
Equipment Operator Constructionman Charles Ciosek, deployed as the Seabee expeditionary construction and engineering capability of Task Force 75, uses a clamshell bucket on the 924 Loader to clear and grub the site in support of the Marpo Heights Road G construction on Tinian. The Marpo Heights road improvement project is a U.S. Department of Defense innovative readiness training mission that leverages DoD unit core capabilities combined with local resource contributions to produce mission-ready forces, civil-military partnerships, and stronger communities.
U.S. NAVY/MCS2 COLE C. PIELOP

# $5M worth of refunds now out

FERDIE DE LA TORRE
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REPORTER

» 2nd batch will be processed within 10 days
» Labor, Finance met on how to speed up release of PUA checks, how much left

The Department of Finance has started releasing this week the first batch of income tax refunds worth about $5 million.

During a radio news briefing last Friday, Finance Secretary David DLG Atalig said they hope to release the second batch of income tax refunds within 10 days.

Atalig said that department staff started printing the income tax refund checks last

See REFUNDS on Page 4

> Taxpayers in this first batch should be expecting it as early as Saturday morning or Monday morning, and throughout the week...

## 1st day of early voting smooth but low turnout

FERDIE DE LA TORRE
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REPORTER

The start of the 21-day early voting for Saipan and the Northern Islands yesterday went smoothly and orderly but had a low turnout, according to the Commonwealth Election Commission.

There were 243 voters at the Pedro P. Tenorio Multi-Purpose Center in Susupe, while 184 voted at the Koblerville

See VOTING on Page 4

Commonwealth Election Commission staff checks the temperature of an early voter at the Pedro P. Tenorio Multi-Purpose Center.
NEIL FAMA

## Torres: Some budget provisions unfair, irresponsible

FERDIE DE LA TORRE
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REPORTER

Torres

While commending the Legislature for its hard work in passing the fiscal year 2021 budget bill, Gov. Ralph DLG Torres said it is "unfair and irresponsible" for the Legislature to in-

See TORRES on Page 4

## 'Are we on Level Green?'

By JUSTINE NAUTA
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REPORTER

That is the question that is frequently being asked by many in the community and, although there is no direct "yes" or "no" answer, Warren Villagomez, who heads

See GREEN on Page 4

## AT A GLANCE

As of 6pm, Oct. 13, 2020

| GUAM | OLD | NEW | TOTAL |
|---|---|---|---|
| Positive | 3,078 | 92 | 3,170 |
| Recovered | 2,071 | 118 | 2,189 |
| Active | 829 | 92 | 921 |
| Deaths | 60 | 0 | 60 |
| Cumulative Number of Persons Tested | | | 55,885 |

| SAIPAN | OLD | NEW | TOTAL |
|---|---|---|---|
| Positive | 77 | 0 | 77 |
| Deaths | 2 | 0 | 2 |
| Cumulative Number of Persons Tested | | | 19,345* |

*Total count includes the number of persons tested on Saipan, Tinian, and Rota. With guidance from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, CHCC has opted not to report active and recovered cases. The community-based testing has been temporarily suspended.

Source: Joint Information Center - Guam, Commonwealth Health Care Corp.

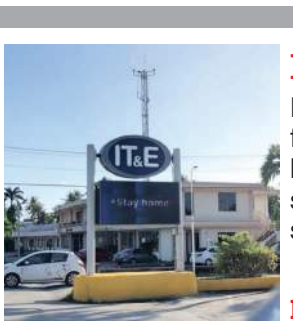
## COMMUNITY VULNERABILITY

**LEGEND:**
- **Red:** Least safe
- **Orange**
- **Yellow**
- **Blue**
- **Green:** Safest

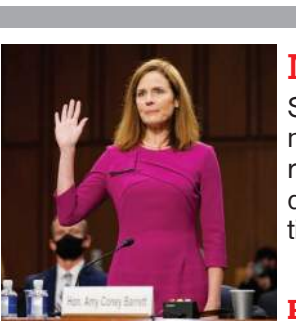
*Source: Office of the Governor*

## INSIDE

**YOUNGSTYLE**
Today's edition of *Saipan Tribune* comes with a special section for our younger readers.
PAGE 11



**BUSINESS**
IT&E is providing free access to online learning platforms for students and teachers starting Oct. 9.
PAGE 13



**NATION**
Supreme Court nominee Amy Coney Barrett faces a second day of her confirmation hearings.
PAGE 13

SCAN ME WITH A COMPATIBLE QR READER TO KEEP UPDATED ON ALL THE LATEST NEWS.

# Local

**EARLY VOTING**
Early voters arrive at the Pedro P. Tenorio Multi-Purpose Center in Susupe, which is one of the four designated polling sites for the 21-day early voting for Saipan and Northern Islands, which started yesterday, Oct. 13, 2020. Early voting for Saipan and the Northern Islands will end on Nov. 2, 2020. NEIL FAMA

# CNMI team helps fight Calif. fire

By KIMBERLY A. BAUTISTA
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REPORTER

The CNMI has sent a team composed of 16 individuals to northern California to aid in the fight against the wildfire in what is referred to as the "August Complex" fire.

This was the third group that the CNMI has sent to the U.S. mainland since 2014 under the U.S. Department of Agriculture Forest Services Cooperative program to help put out the fires along the steep mountain terrains of Northern California.

The August Complex is a large wildfire that torched the coast range of Northern California, in Glenn, Lake, Mendocino, Tehama, and Trinity counties. The complex started as 38 separate fires that came together. The fire was started by lightning strike on Aug. 16, 2020.

The CNMI group consists of seven firefighters from the CNMI Department of Fire and Emergency Medical Services and nine civilians. The team landed in California in September and will remain there as long as they are needed to extinguish the August Complex fire.

In a video posted by the U.S Forest Service featuring the Saipan crew, Albert Aldan said the experience has been great so far—"all the resources coming together and collaborating, and bringing everybody together to put this fire out."

In the same video, Justin Mizutani said their greatest challenge so far has been the hike up the steep terrains. "Back home, our highest elevation is 1,200 [feet] and coming out here and being on this mountain at 6,300 [feet], hiking up on steep terrain is a challenge for the guys but, so far, we've been pushing through and getting stuff done," he said.

Another great challenge for Devin Guerrero is waking up to the cold climate, which is the complete opposite of the humid weather on Saipan. "We've been waking up to low 30s. We're waking up to the coldest weathers but we get the warmest greeting from the people here in California," he said. The CNMI's average temperature is usually in the 80s.

Despite the struggles, newest member Joseph Guerrero Jr. said it's been great to learn the ways of firefighting from professional firefighters from different areas in the United States.

One such firefighter, Kareena Tulloch, who joined the Saipan crew, said the team from Saipan is a great one with many respectful individuals. "They've been so respectful toward us, as well as the forest. They're a really good, respectful group of guys," she said.

Vicente Moreno described the spirit of the Saipan team as "high spirited, yet humble" individuals. "I'd definitely say they're really high in spirits, a lot of energy. The group as a whole is really humble," he said.

# Rotary golf tournament makes over $10,000 for club projects

The Rotary Club of Saipan's Goodwill Golf Tournament last Oct. 10 generated over $10,000 that will be used to fund the club's future projects.

At the club's regular Tuesday meeting at the Hyatt Regency Saipan in Garapan, club president Sonya Dancoe said the club raised a grand total of $21,247.80 plus expenses. The Rotary spent $10,660 for the event, leaving them with a total of $10,587.80. The golf tournament attracted 100 players.

Dancoe hinted that there could be another tournament next year.

When broken down, the tournament's raffle tickets totaled $3,029, sponsored cash donations amounted to $8,620, players cash payments amounted to $4,960, player cash and credit card payments at the Laolao Bay Golf & Resort totaled $3,824, and Fiesta Resort & Spa Saipan gave $814.80.

Dancoe stated that the donations covered the total expense of $10,600 and no one had to pay out of pocket. The biggest expense was the banquet at the Fiesta Resort & Spa Saipan but Fiesta waived the fee, or the banquet meal, for the volunteers. ***(Justine Nauta)***

AQUA RESORT CLUB
Special
PACKAGES
APC
AQUA RESORT CLUB
Saipan
LOCAL Staycation PACKAGE
Deluxe Garden View
1 Night Stay in our Deluxe Garden View Room
Complimentary upgrade to Deluxe Ocean View Upon Availability
Early Check-In 10:00am & Late Check-Out 5:00pm
50% Off on all beverages for your entire stay
$140.00 per room, per night
Oceanfront Suite
1 Night Stay in our Deluxe Oceanfront Suite
Early Check-In (10:00am)
Late Check-Out (5:00pm)
50% Off on all beverages for your entire stay
$250.00 per room, per night
ROMANTIC COUPLE'S Staycation PACKAGE
Deluxe Garden View
1 Night Stay in our Deluxe Garden View Room
Complimentary upgrade to Deluxe Ocean View Upon Availability
Romantic Dinner for Two at Kevin's
Early Check-In 10:00am & Late Check-Out 5:00pm
50% Off on all beverages for your entire stay
$180.00 per room, per night
Oceanfront Suite
1 Night Stay in our Deluxe Oceanfront Suite
Romantic Dinner for Two at Kevin's
Early Check-In (10:00am)
Late Check-Out (5:00pm)
50% Off on all beverages for your entire stay
$290.00 per room, per night
LARGE FAMILY Staycation PACKAGE (Accommodates 8 Guests!)
Two Adjoining Deluxe Large Garden View
Only $320.00 per package, per night
Accommodates Eight (8) Guests
Two (2) Connected Deluxe Large Garden View Rooms for One (1) Night Stay
Complimentary Early Check-In (10:00am) | Complimentary Late Check-Out (5:00pm)
Includes TWO FREE PIZZAS!!!
50% Off on all beverages for your entire stay
20% Off all Dinner Set Menus at Kevin's
Includes 2 FREE PIZZAS!
For Reservations & More Information
Please call us at (670)322-1234
APC
AQUA RESORT CLUB
Saipan
*Mandatory 15% Government Tax will be added to the total room charges
*Special Rates valid for stay duration within October 9 - November 30, 2020
*Reservations available on Friday and Saturday only (& select Holidays)
*Benefits may not be transferred, exchanged or redeemed for cash
*Benefits may not be combined with any other specials or promotions.
*All benefits should be used during stay duration checked-in times only
*Facilities and benefits are for the use of registered guests only
*Valid CNMI or Guam resident ID required for special promotional rates

# Court keeps $10K cash bail for man charged with child abuse

The Superior Court has decided to retain the $10,000 bail for a man who is charged with child abuse after allegedly slapping a 16-year-old girl and hitting her head against a wall.

Christino Selkor, 40, through his lawyer, assistant public defender Vina Seelam, asked Superior Court Associate Judge Joseph Camacho last Friday to reduce the $10,000 bail to $3,000 and to allow him to pay 10% of the amount. Seelam also assured the court that Selkor is employed and will not stay where the victim is residing.

Camacho denied the request for bail modification, however, citing the lack of monitoring and supervision for the defendant. Camacho directed Seelam to find a suitable third-party custodian for Selkor if they want to move forward with the bail modification.

Selkor was remanded back to the custody of the Department of Corrections following the hearing last Friday. He was also ordered to return to court for a preliminary hearing on Oct. 14 at 10am and for his arraignment on Oct. 20 at 9am.

Selkor is accused of assaulting the 16-year-old girl while he was intoxicated, and has been charged with child abuse and disturbing the peace.

According to court documents, Selkor had just come home drunk and got into an argument with the 16-year-old girl and that he allegedly slapped her. She slapped him back, which allegedly prompted Selkor to pull her hair and drag her to the living room and hit her. Another girl woke her mother in the bedroom, and she came out and stopped the fight between Selkor and the 16-year-old.

Both the 16-year-old and 11-year-old girls went into their bedroom, but Selkor allegedly followed them, and that Selkor allegedly grabbed the 16-year-old's head and hit her head against the wall before walking out of the room.

The 16-year-old told police that she couldn't move for about 5-10 seconds and that her vision became blurry. She added that she had to lean on the 11-year-old girl for balance while she picked herself up from the floor. She told police that Selkor came back into the room and apologized. ***(Kimberly A. Bautista)***

# Free webinar on federal contracting

The Guam Procurement Technical Assistance Center is offering free live webinars every Thursday in October. Webinars run from 10am to 11:30am and will be conducted via Zoom. Links to the live webinar and the webinar evaluation will be emailed to all registered attendees 15 minutes before the start of the webinar.

■ **Oct. 15 – Marketing to the Federal Government** – The government buys products and services differently than the private sector. The Guam PTAC will discuss marketing strategies, essential documents, and how to get your company on "the list".

■ **Oct. 22 – FAR Clauses Explained** – Confused by all the FAR clauses referenced in government solicitations? The Guam PTAC will demystify these Federal Acquisition Regulations. Join us as we explain many of the common FAR clauses found in Federal solicitations.

■ **Oct. 29 – Procurement Integrated Enterprise Environment** – Do you have a DOD contract and need to get paid? The Guam PTAC will explain DOD invoicing procedures using the Wide-Area Workflow module in the Procurement Integrated Enterprise Environment system.

Register on the website, http://guamptac.com/news-and-events.php if you want to attend the webinar. ***(PR)***

CONGRESSMAN
GREGORIO KILILI CAMACHO SABLAN
Serving the People of the Northern Mariana Islands
U.S. HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
NOW ACCEPTING APPLICATIONS FOR
MILITARY SERVICE ACADEMY
CONGRESSIONAL NOMINATIONS
Opportunities to learn and serve at the U.S. Service Academy include a fully funded education and a commission as a military officer upon graduation.
Congressman Gregorio Kilili Camacho Sablan may nominate constituents to the
U.S. Merchant Marine Academy
U.S. Military Academy
U.S. Air Force Academy
U.S. Naval Academy
Eligibility: U.S. citizen, unmarried with no dependents, age 17-23, high school senior or graduate, strong academic record, and ability to pass a physical fitness test.
To access the nomination application or for more information, visit sablan.house.gov or call 670-323-2647/8 on Saipan, 433-2647 on Tinian, or 532-2647 on Rota.
This mailing was prepared, published, and mailed at taxpayer expense.

Candidates at a Glance
The Saipan Tribune will be coming out with a supplement,
#voteCNMI
in October 29 featuring candidates in the November election.
Spread your message to reach the people WHO VOTE.
Reserve your spot now!
For more information, please call 235-8747 and look for Beth, Donna or Alyssa
Hafa Adai! Saipan Tribune
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## TORRES

*From Page 1*

clude provisions in the bill that place on the Executive Branch the burden of bearing the financial obligations incurred by other branches or municipalities.

In his letter to Senate President Victor B. Hocog (R-Rota) and House Speaker Blas Jonathan T. Attao (R-Saipan) last Friday that explains his line-item vetoes on several provisions of the budget bill, Torres gave a point-by-point comments on items in the budget that he had issues with.

While recognizing the Legislature's efforts to work and ensure that a balanced budget is passed for fiscal year 2021, Torres said the proposed budget bill was transmitted to his office in the early morning hours of Oct. 1, 2020, leaving him not enough time to provide comments in a timely manner.

He pointed out that, as required by the CNMI Constitution, he was supposed to submit a proposed budget to the Legislature by April 1, which he did, and that he even submitted a revised budget last July 1. He said the Legislature, in turn, must pass a balanced budget well before the start of the new fiscal year, which is Oct. 1, so that his office could thoroughly review the budget bill. Torres noted that the budget was not actually passed until after midnight on Oct. 1, thus forcing him, Lt. Gov. Arnold I. Palacios, Attorney General Edward Manibusan, and their staff to review the budget bill overnight so that he could sign the budget, avoid a government shutdown, and allow government employees to report to work that morning.

Torres urged the Senate and the House to prevent the same thing from happening again.

Torres also asked the Legislature to consider the inequities that can arise and have occurred during the budget allocation processes.

The governor said that, although he signed the budget bill into Public Law 21-35, he is compelled to address several sections that he found to be problematic in either their implementation or in their lack of fairness to other activities of the different branches of government.

Specifically, he said, the Executive Branch finds that the Legislature's lack of transparency in providing clarifications for administrative provisions that move several sources of funding between programs, branches, and agencies and increase or decrease the number of positions affecting the current employment of personnel within an agency "were concealed irresponsibly."

Torres said he is obliged to mention that many of the provisions added by the Legislature are either unclear or inconsistent with other provisions of law or impose additional and unnecessary steps that would delay efficient processes that are already in place.

"I find that many of these provisions unfairly burden our different branches of government," he said.

Torres said Section 202 of the approved budget suspends earmarks previously placed to protect two critical components: the Group Health and Life Insurance benefit for retirees and the payment of debt service to the Marianas Public Land Trust.

Without the earmarks for GHLI, the amount appropriated for GHLI is only enough to cover 60 days or four semi-monthly payrolls for the GHLI benefits, Torres said.

The governor pointed out that in his July 1 submission, both the GHLI earmark and the allocation in the general fund were kept intact in order to provide the government with at least nine months to cover benefits. Additionally, this will give them more time to track collections versus projections so that they may able to secure other resources to fully fund this obligation's remaining months, he said.

Torres said Section 202 places an unnecessary burden on the CNMI government, which now must ascertain the additional funding sources to meet this obligation, which is likely to unfairly include collecting from existing agencies and instrumentalities.

He said the second component affected by the suspension of earmarks is the payment of debt service to MPLT. This automatic appropriation, the governor pointed out, was intended to service the $15-million debt to pay expenses related to the government's response to Super Typhoon Yutu.

Suspending this earmark therefore violates Public Law 21-3, which now requires the government to identify other sources to make this payment.

"It was because the earmarks upheld statutory mandates they were not touched during the fiscal summit held earlier this year," said Torres. He asked the Legislature that similar intentions in future budgets be discussed beforehand so that they may be able to work together to avoid financial rises.

Another provision, Section 203, imposes additional reporting and requirements on the Finance secretary beyond what is already required by law, Torres said. Those additional requirements include quarterly fund status report and regular meetings with the chairpersons of the Senate Committee on Fiscal Affairs and House Ways and Means Committee.

Another provision, Section 501, grants the governor unlimited reprogramming authority in fiscal year 2021. Torres said that, while he appreciates the Legislature's intent, this provision is tied to Section 902 of this act, which dictates the reprogramming authority of the Executive Branch to pay for the 25% pension of retirees. He said the Legislature's generous act ignores the 64-hour pay period already imposed on the Executive Branch due to existing financial limitations and further thrusts onto the Executive Branch the responsibility of meeting the 25% pension payment obligation (amounting to $14 million annually). As such, he said, he finds that this provision callously compromises all critical public services.

Pertaining to vetoed parts of the bill, Torres said Section 404 ignores the existence of a law that defines the processes needed to be taken whenever there are changes in revenue estimates. He said the Planning and Budgeting Act dictates this requirement's application for any changes to revenue estimates, whether there is an increase or decrease. For this reason, Torres said, he vetoed this provision.

Torres said Section 501 requires the administration to submit written notices no less than 15 days to the Legislature prior to exercising any reprogramming authority. He said the volume of reprogramming processed daily comes from programs outside the general fund and from members of the Legislature moving funds within members or committees. Thus, he said, this provision would now require him to notify them of their own request. Because detailed reporting requirements are submitted quarterly, Torres vetoed this provision in order to eliminate steps that create redundancies.

With respect to Section 601 (b), Torres said this provision mandates the Executive Branch to pay for the utilities for the Tinian and Rota, that this unfairly places a burden on the Executive Branch.

He said given that their budget allocations were increased from his submission by $892,000 and $1.3 million respectively—decreasing the Executive Branch's allocation by $1.3 million—all utility costs and payments incurred shall be reverted back to Tinian and Rota. As such, Torres said, he must line-item veto this provision.

Section 602 (b) gives priority to furloughed employees when filling new or vacant positions. For this reason, Torres said, he applauds the Legislature's action to grant him with this authority. This section, however, provides that these positions be blocked if they are not filled within 45 days. Because the process of hiring sometimes take more than 90 days, Torres said he must line-item veto this provision.

**A longer version of this story is available at www. saipantribune.com**

## VOTING

*From Page 1*

Youth Center in Koblerville, 60 at the Tanapag Youth Center in Tanapag, and 112 at the Kagman Community Center in Kagman, for a total of 599.

CEC executive director Julita A. Villagomez said they did not encounter any problems at the Multi-Purpose Center and that she also did not hear of any problems at other polling sites.

Villagomez said the only challenge for them is the COVID-19 protocols that they and the COVID-19 Task Force have put in place. She said voters and election staff have to observe social distancing at polling sites, where they also get temperatures of everybody and wash their hands.

Villagomez said the minor issues they have encountered is missing names, but it turned out that those voters should be at another polling site.

She said some people failed to vote in two consecutive elections already, so their names are not there. Villagomez said they sent them to the CEC office to show them the records that they did not vote in consecutive elections.

Despite the COVID-19 situation this year, Villagomez said the 2018 election was more challenging because it was right after Super Typhoon Yutu, in which lack of electric power was an issue. She recalled that, at one time, they couldn't work in preparing the election and were given one week delay to process the election.

"At that time, we didn't have power at the office," Villagomez said.

A teacher/librarian who was one of those who voted at the Multi-Purpose Center said early voting process was wonderful as it was fast and easy and that COVID-19 protocols were observed.

"I was processed at the front door, and then spent a short time at the waiting area, and then I received the ballot and proceeded inside to one of the booths. And in less than two minutes, I chose my candidates and I inserted the ballot into the collection box," said the 41-year-old voter who requested anonymity.

She said 2020 is a special year and that she's especially enthusiastic about her candidates.

"I know where I stand, what my values are. And I vote according to the party and the platform. And I vote for the party that I believe reflects my personal values as an American citizen and my religious convictions," she said.

The teacher/librarian said she is a private person and believes in exercising her right, but she does not like being hassled by the crowd during election day so she decided to vote early.

Another voter, Martin Dela Cruz, 49, said the process was fast as he completed it in less than two minutes.

Dela Cruz, a resident of Chalan Kanoa, said he decided to vote early like in previous elections to avoid crowd or additional hassle during election day.

## REFUNDS

*From Page 1*

Friday morning, then they needed to sort and get the checks out in the mail. He said they had staff working over the weekend.

"Taxpayers in this first batch should be expecting it as early as Saturday morning or Monday morning, and throughout the week, depending on how the post office gets the checks in their mail boxes," he said.

Atalig said taxpayers may contact the Division of Revenue and Taxation to check if they're in the first batch. He said they are also getting a lot of calls regarding different child tax credits. He said the staff at the Division of Revenue and Taxation are available to answer any taxpayer's questions. He cautioned, however, that they will probably be getting a lot of calls so people have to be patient. "Hopefully, we'll get to their calls or emails," he said.

Atalig said they are releasing checks based on a first-in, first-out process. That means those who submitted their tax returns first before the deadline get to be in the first batch.

With respect to Pandemic Unemployment Assistance checks, Atalig said they're having a meeting that day, Friday, with Labor's PUA team, where one of the topics is how to speed up the process of releasing the checks as well as to find out how much more they have to release.

"We're always working on trying to improve our process," he said.

## GREEN

*From Page 1*

the COVID-19 Task Force, says that the different color levels basically refer to business hour limits, building occupancy limits, and other safety protocols.

With the low incidence of community spread in the CNMI, Villagomez said the color levels give the task force, the Commonwealth Healthcare Corp., and the administration a better gauge in making decisions on a daily basis.

The community vulnerability level is a five-color scale that signifies the level of COVID-19 risk in the community, with Level Red as the least safe and Level Green as the safest.

Villagomez said that they have yet to see risk at this time and, with the precautionary measures that are put in place, the different color levels set standard for businesses, schools, establishments, etc. to follow.

"I also feel that we're not restricting anyone based on what we have out there in regards to precautionary measures," said Villagomez, adding that they have yet to deny anyone from opening a business establishment and that the task force just wants to ensure that the COVID-19 directives, and the three W's (wash your hands, wait at a 6-foot distance, and wear a mask), are in place.

Gov. Ralph DLG Torres said that, at this point, with every business opening up or has had the opportunity to open up, it feels as if the island is already on Level Green. However, Torres stated that "we all have to understand that we may not be able to go back to 100% normalcy, unless there's a vaccine."

"Our system is working, and I know that we want to open everything, but at the same time, we're basically almost there. We have a curfew at 2 o'clock in the morning, and then it opens up again at four o'clock. But other than that, all businesses are able to open," said Torres.

And even if it feels as if the CNMI is already on Level Green, there is still a curfew, Villagomez said.

Commonwealth Healthcare Corp. chief executive officer Esther Muña said that there's no getting rid of the 3 W's even if the island is on Level Green and that "we need to continue doing it," and that travelers coming in can still bring in the risk.

With the businesses opening up with restrictions, Muña stressed that they want to be careful because, even if there is just one case of COVID-19 community spread, it can be "detrimental for the CNMI." Muña stated that the CNMI has been fortunate enough that the individuals who have tested positive did not require hospitalization.

# Woman arrested for allegedly assaulting police officer

On Sunday, Oct. 11, 2020, at about 12:30am, an officer was conducting routine patrol through the village of Chalan Kanoa on Saipan, when the officer noticed a group of individuals walking on the roadway.

The female officer pulled over to notify the group to use the sidewalk but, as the officer was talking to the group, one individual hit the officer's vehicle. When the officer got down her vehicle, the suspect began screaming profanities at the female officer and walked up to her, repeatedly hitting her and scratching the officer in the face. At this time, family members and another officer on the scene managed to restrain the suspect in handcuffs. The suspect was later identified as Tanela Peter.

Peter

Peter was placed at the back of the vehicle as the officer educated the group on the hazards of walking on the roadway. Peter continued to kick and scream at the back of the vehicle before she was advised of her Miranda rights and was arrested for assault and battery. Peter was brought to Kanoa Resort for clearance before being transported to the Department of Corrections where she was booked and detained.

On Oct. 12, 2020, at about 6:47pm, Superior Court Associate Judge Joseph N. Camacho issued a Rule-5 for Peter for the charges of assault and battery, with bail set at $10,000. Peter was served while still detained at DOC. ***(PR)***

## Torres sees another Republican Party victory

**By FERDIE DE LA TORRE**
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

With the 21-day early voting for Saipan and Northern Islands starting yesterday, Gov. Ralph DLG Torres predicts that the Republican Party will prevail again at this November's election.

Speaking at a radio's news briefing yesterday, Torres said he is confident that the people know what direction the CNMI is heading and understand the Commonwealth's current situation, that voters know that the administration under the Republic Party's leadership has been pushing hard to take care of the community.

**» As 21-day early voting for Saipan, Northern Islands starts**

"And I think now with COVID-19 here, there's no denial or reason to say that the leadership and the Republican Party, [together with] the community, have taken that extra precaution to make sure that not just the elders are taken cared of but everyone…here in the CNMI," he said.

The governor pointed out that, with everything that has been thrown at his administration, whether it's a typhoon or pandemic, they continue to move forward, and that, despite the false accusations and false information being thrown around, they continue to do what's good for the CNMI.

"And we do have solutions," Torres said, noting that retirees continue to get their retirement pensions. "So I believe that our community knows that we've been taking care of our community."

The governor urged the people to go out and exercise their right to vote.

The Republican Party has 21 candidates in this election, while the Democratic Party has 18. There are nine Independents, and 20 non-partisans.

## Upcoming virtual EEO seminar

The Equal Employment Opportunity Commission is bringing back virtual EEO workshop to Guam and CNMI.

Called "EEO in a Time of Change," the virtual EEO workshop will take place on Oct. 22, 2020, from 8:45am to 12:20pm. Topics will include COVID-19 and the Americans with Disabilities Act, harassment in the workplace, plus legal and commission updates.

Presenters of this workshop include EEOC Los Angeles district director Rosa Viramontes, EEOC supervisor administrative judge Diane Gross and EEOC regional attorney Anna Park.

The Society for Human Resource Management-NMI Chapter invites its members, colleagues, associated HR and management staff, and interested members of the public to register at https://bit.ly/GuamEEOWorkshop. Visit the link to see applicable fees provided by EEOC Training Institute. The workshop is also approved for SHRM credits.

SHRM is the world's largest association devoted to human resource management. The Society serves the needs of HR professionals and advances the interests of the HR profession. Founded in 1948, SHRM has more than 250,000 members in over 140 countries, and more than 575 affiliated chapters. The NMI Chapter is affiliated with the national organization. ***(PR)***

**CAMP TINIAN** U.S. NAVY/MCS2 COLE C. PIELOP

Builder 3rd Class Matthew Best, deployed with the Seabee expeditionary construction and engineering capability of Task Force 75, carries lumber to prefabricated walls in support of Southwest Asia hut construction on Camp Tinian.


**Commonwealth Utilities Corporation**
**Office of the Executive Director**

**INVITATION FOR BIDS**
**CUC-IFB-20-029**

**TINIAN MAUI WELL II REHABILITATION PROJECT**
**(W17-054)**

The Office of the Executive Director, Commonwealth Utilities Corporation (CUC) is soliciting competitive sealed bids from qualified firms for the Tinian Maui Well II Rehabilitation Project in Tinian, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands. The project consists, in general installation of a new pump control panel, variable frequency drive (VFD), flow meter, installation of gate valve assembly, pressure gauges, air relief valve, check valves, interior/exterior painting of the facility and other related work. The work shall be done in accordance with the Project Plans and Specifications and without disruption to the daily operation of the water system.

***This project is funded by a grant from the United States of Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA). The award of this project is contingent upon receipt of the approval for project award from USEPA.***

CUC requires the Project to be completed in **240 calendar days** from date of award of contract.

Prospective Bidders for this IFB must pre-register with the CUC Procurement & Supply Division. The Bid Package may be obtained from the CUC Procurement and Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, Saipan, between 7:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. and 12:30 p.m. to 4:00 p.m., Monday through Friday, except on government observed holidays, upon completion of registration and presentation of a receipt evidencing a non-refundable payment to the CUC Treasury Section, by cash, check or credit card in the amount of $200.00 (non-refundable) for one IFB package set.

A Pre-Bid Conference followed by a Site Visit is scheduled on **September 24, 2020 at 10:00 AM (ChST)** at the CUC Main Conference Room, 3rd Floor, Room No.17, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building.

**One (1) original and Five (5) hard copies** must be submitted in a sealed envelope marked **"CUC-IFB-20-029, *Tinian Maui Well II Rehabilitation Project"***, to the CUC Procurement & Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, P.O. Box 501220, Saipan, MP 96950, no later than **10:00 AM (ChST) on October 22, 2020**, at which time they will be publicly opened and read aloud. Late submissions and conditional bids will not be considered. Bid shall be submitted on the provided Bid Forms. Bidders are required to complete all Bid Forms. Bidders may supplement the form as appropriate. Bids will be required to be submitted under a condition of irrevocability for a period of 60 days after submission. **Late submissions and conditional bids will not be considered.**

All bidders are advised that CUC assumes no responsibility in any act of omission on the part of the bidders due to lack of information or understanding of the bid requirements in the course of Contractor's preparation of a bid under the contract.

A *Bid Guarantee* of fifteen (15%) percent of the total bid price must accompany the bids. The bid guarantee may be in cash, certified check, cashier's check, or bid bond executed by a surety company holding a certificate of authority from the United States, Secretary of Treasury as an acceptable surety. A *Payment Bond* of one hundred (100%) percent and a *Performance Bond* of one hundred (100%) percent of the total bid price will be required upon the execution of the contract by the successful bidders. The Payment and Performance bond must be executed by a surety company holding a certificate of authority from the United States Secretary of Treasury as an acceptable surety. Surety Company must be authorized to do business in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

All insurers' questions, concerns and qualification shall be handled by the Department of Commerce Office of the Insurance Commissioner (OIC). The OIC is tasked with regulating and monitoring compliance to the CNMI's Insurance Code (Title 4, Division 7). **Bidders are required to submit a clearance from the OIC certifying their insurer of choice is in compliance with the CNMI's Insurance Code.**

All bidders are required to comply with all CNMI and applicable Federal Laws. This bid and the ensuing contract shall be executed pursuant to the CUC Procurement Regulations.

All questions or request for clarification regarding this project must be submitted in writing no later than **10:00 AM (ChST) on September 30, 2020** to Mr. Manny B. Sablan, CUC Purchasing Administrator, via email – manny.sablan@cucgov.org with a copy to Mr. Joel Puyat, CUC Water/Wastewater Engineer – via email joel.puyat@cucgov.org and Ms. Marcela Tenorio, Procurement & Supply, Purchasing Technician – via email marcela.tenorio@cucgov.org.

CUC reserves the right to reject any or all bids and waive any imperfection in the bid proposal in the best interest of the government. All bids shall become the property of CUC.

GARY P. CAMACHO
Executive Director

MANNY BOYER SABLAN
Purchasing Administrator



D&Q International Distributors
A TanHoldings Company

D&Q CO. LTD.

An international wholesale distribution company based in Guam, is seeking personable and professional applicant for the following position.

**REGIONAL SALES MANAGER**

Our Guam office is looking for a high-performing Regional Sales Manager. The successful candidate will help develop and meet our revenue and profit growth objectives. Responsibilities include developing key growth sales strategies, tactics, and action plans. Successful execution of these strategies is required to achieve your financial targets. Duties will include hitting annual targets, building relationships and understanding customer/market trends. The position is responsible to meet our vendor, customer acquisition and revenue growth targets by keeping our company competitive and innovative.

**Responsibilities**

- Develop a Business Plan, establish Sales Targets and Selling Strategies that expands company's customer base and ensure its strong presence.
- Coordinate with Sales Operations and Finance to ensure timely rebate and commission payouts are established and executed.
- Negotiate and formulate rebate structures and supply agreements on an ongoing basis.
- Collaborate with territorial sales managers to plan and develop effective sales strategies and also set goals and targets, in order to promote strong, long-lasting customer and vendor relationships.
- Manage territorial sales managers for performance using KPIs, KBMs and hold formal business reviews.
- Keep Management and leadership advised of market trends and competitor activities.
- Collaborate with management to plan and develop effective sales strategies and to also set goals and targets.
- Proposes and negotiates innovative business deals/agreements with new and existing vendors & key customers.
- Partner with Marketing leadership to build overall growth strategy.
- Prepare & provide various sales and management presentation and reports
- Prepares annual budgets, selling strategies, establishes industry channel targets, business financial planning and forecasting.

**Requirements**

- Must have minimum 5 years sales management experience in same or comparable industry.
- Level of direction is limited, self-starter.
- Strong Leadership skills
- Excellent verbal and written communication skills.
- Computer literate. Proficiency in Microsoft Excel, Powerpoint, and Word is required.
- Detail oriented with good organizational skills.
- Ideal candidate must have a reliable vehicle and able to travel as required.

D&Q Co. Ltd. is a manufacturer's representative and wholesale distribution company that offers its employees a comprehensive benefits package including paid holiday and vacation leave, bonus program, medical, dental, 401K plan and disability coverage plus optional life insurance.

In light of COVD-19 pandemic crisis, we ask that you send your resume to Attn: Human Resources mmiclat@dandq-international.com & dataclerk@dandq-international.com, or Employment Application Form is available for pickup. Please call us at (671) 649-2706. We are located on Pick-A-Nail Road, 267 Guerrero Drive, Tamuning (behind Atkins Kroll, before FedEx).

D&Q Co. Ltd. is an Equal Opportunity Employer

# Reward increased to $5K in Guam dog drowning case

The non-profit group Guam Animals in Need continues to seek information on the drowning of a small dog in Talofofo and the reward leading to an arrest in the case is now $5,000, which is being offered by an anonymous donor.

The award was previously set at $3,000.

One can provide information and collect the increased reward while remaining anonymous. GAIN encourages anyone with information to contact Guam Crime Stoppers at 477-HELP (4357) or guam.crimestoppersweb.com.

GAIN does not have new information about the case since its last public notice, but the non-profit organization hopes that someone in the community may know something and is willing to share it.

"Somebody tied a dog to a rock using rope and duct tape, and drowned it in a river. This sadistic killer is a danger to others, humans and animals. Please help us stop them," said Cyrus Luhr, GAIN board president.

The body of a dog that is tied to a rock and drowned in Guam is seen in the photo taken from the bridge immediately north of Jeff's Pirate Cove on Route 4 in Talofofo.

GAIN

The dog, possibly an adult terrier-mix weighing 10-15 lbs with tan fur, was tied to a rock using rope and duct tape before being drowned in a river. A jogger spotted the body of the drowned dog floating near the bridge immediately north of Jeff's Pirate Cove on Route 4 in Talofofo on Sept. 20. The Guam Police Department began its investigation, and the Department of Agriculture and GAIN recovered the body.

When pulling the body from the water, personnel were also able to recover the rock used to weigh the dog down in the water. "This was intentional. The rope around the neck was knotted tightly, and duct-tape was used to permanently secure the rope to a rock," said Luhr. The body was transported by GAIN to the animal shelter in Yigo, where it was stored and examined by Dr. Thomas Pool, the Guam territorial veterinarian. Due to the advanced state of decomposition, the sex and precise age of the dog could not be determined. However, Pool estimates the drowning occurred within the last few weeks.

"An act like this is both heartbreaking and profoundly worrisome for our community. Someone who is capable of torturing and killing a small, innocent dog like this is likely capable of anything. According to the FBI, one of the most strongly correlated traits of serial killers is a history of torturing animals. Also, conduct disorders, like child abuse and spouse beating, are similarly strongly correlated with animal abuse. We can only pray that a witness will come forward," said Pool.

Numerous studies demonstrate a direct link between animal abuse and domestic violence, child abuse, and elder abuse. Animal abuse was found in 88% of homes in which physical child abuse was being investigated. Eighty-nine percent of women who had companion animals during an abusive relationship reported that their animals were threatened, harmed, or killed by their abusive partner.

"If you have any information, please share it and help us protect lives. The killer who did this is likely to hurt more animals or humans," said Luhr.

"GPD will continue to work alongside GAIN in bringing closure to this case. Anyone with Information can submit a tip online anonymously to the Guam Crime Stoppers at guam.crimestoppersweb.com," said Sgt. Paul Tapao of the Guam Police Department.

GAIN continues to advocate for Bill 185-35, the PAWS Act (also known as Pugua's Law), which is currently being reviewed by the Office of the Attorney General of Guam. Once adopted, the measure will modernize animal cruelty laws in Guam.

GAIN is also awaiting developments in the Guam Police Department's investigation into Walter's killing, a neighborhood pet whose throat was slashed in late July. ***(PR)***

FREE VIRTUAL SESSION THIS WEEK

# Learn to prevent falls among the elderly

Elderly members of the community, their family members and caregivers, and students in the health, social work, or related fields are invited to a free Zoom session on preventing falls.

Hosted by the Guam/Micronesia Geriatrics Workforce Enhancement Program through the University of Guam School of Health, the session will take place in two identical classes: 6pm to 7pm tomorrow, Thursday, and 10am to 11am on Saturday.

"One in four older adults experience a fall every year. Though common, there are many ways to prevent falls, increasing the safety and independence of older adults," said Margaret Hattori-Uchima, dean of the UOG School of Health and co-project director of the Guam/Micronesia Geriatrics Workforce Enhancement Program.

Participants will learn about common misconceptions about falling, risk factors that increase falls, and strategies to reduce falls. They will also be guided through the National Council on Aging's Falls Free Check-up, learn what to do in the event of a fall, and have an opportunity at the end for a question-and-answer with Hattori-Uchima, who is a registered nurse who holds a doctorate in nursing.

The session aligns with Falls Prevention Week, promoted by the National Council on Aging in the month of September to spread knowledge, awareness, and resources about the risk of falling and how to prevent falls.

Register for these sessions at the following links:

■ **6pm – 7pm on Thursday, Oct. 15:** http://bit.ly/FP101520

■ **10am – 11am on Saturday, Oct. 17:** http://bit.ly/FP101720

For more information, call (671) 735-2652 or email uog.gwep@triton.uog.edu. ***(PR)***

**COVID-19 TESTING TENT**

Task Force Engineer airmen from the Guam National Guard's 254th RED HORSE Squadron set up a COVID-19 testing and evaluation tent at the Guam Regional Medical City in Dededo on Oct. 8. The tent will serve as a temporary structure for GRMC to test and evaluate suspected COVID-19 positive patients.

GUAM NATIONAL GUARD

# $566K for solar energy in Hawaii/Western Pacific

**HILO, Hawaii**—The Trump administration has announced that the United States Department of Agriculture is investing more than $566,000 to improve local business energy efficiency while benefiting the environment in rural Hawaii and Western Pacific.

"Businesses grow and create more jobs when their energy costs are lower," said deputy undersecretary Bette Brand. "Under the leadership of President Trump and Agriculture Secretary [Sonny] Perdue, USDA is committed to being a strong partner to rural businesses, because we know that when rural America thrives, all of America thrives."

According to Hawaii/Western Pacific State director Brenda Iokepa-Moses, these investments will help farmers, agricultural producers and rural-based businesses lower energy costs. "Improving energy efficiency to assist farmers, the agricultural industry and rural businesses is a way to help our environment and our producers."

Iokepa-Moses added that renewable energy is a win-win for Hawaii and Western Pacific communities and businesses and now it's more important than ever. "With the real-time [adaptations] in dealing with the pandemic, programs like these are no longer just luxuries for the communities; they have become essential."

Recipients can use REAP funding for energy audits and to install renewable energy systems such as biomass, geothermal, hydropower and solar. The funding can also be used to increase energy efficiency by making improvements to heating, ventilation and cooling systems; insulation; and lighting and refrigeration.

For example:

■ ***Kawamata Farms, LLC.*** *- $20,000 RES REAP Grant: Funds will be used to purchase and install a 10.27 kW solar photovoltaic system for Kawamata Farms tomato farm in Waimea, Hawaii. Project will generate 15,079 kWh or 99% of their energy needs per year.*

■ ***Hawaii Ulu Producers Cooperative*** *– $37,732 RES REAP Grant: Funds will be used to purchase and install a 60-kW photovoltaic system for a commercial food processing operation. Project is projecting to provide 79,701 kWh or $19,367 savings per year.*

■ ***Hawaii Ulu Producers Cooperative*** *– $60,382 EEI REAP Grant: Funds will be used to finance energy efficiency improvements with the purchase and installation of an energy efficient freezer/refrigeration system that will replace 80,070 kwh/year or $24,278 savings for their food processing facility.*

USDA Rural Development provides loans and grants to help expand economic opportunities and create jobs in rural areas. This assistance supports infrastructure improvements; business development; housing; community facilities such as schools, public safety and health care; and high-speed internet access in rural areas. For more information, visit www.rd.usda.gov. ***(PR)***

# Triple J, Ina's Kitchen work together to help Karidat

By BEA CABRERA
beacabrerasaipan@gmail.com
CORRESPONDENT

The combined efforts of Triple J Five Star Wholesale and Payless SuperFresh & Truckload Store and Ina's Kitchen resulted in more than a thousand-dollars' worth of donation to Karidat Social Services last Friday.

The former supplied meat at a reasonable price so that the latter can make it into a scrumptious dish called "Wet Tacos" for the month of September where a portion of the sales went to Karidat's food bank to help the community. That amounted to $1,315 donated to Karidat last Friday at Ina's Kitchen in Sadog Tasi.

Sonnie Sablan, head chef of Ina's Kitchen, explained that plan was to donate 20% of sales out of the collaboration with Triple J for the whole month of September of the "Wet Tacos" promotion. "We were very successful as we sold 487 plates of tacos, which came out somewhere $6,000 worth of sales and 20% of that, which was $1,315, what we gave to Karidat," he added.

BEA CABRERA

From left, Triple J Five Star Wholesale general manager Jay Santos, Bishop Ryan Jimemez, Karidat counselor Elaine dela Cruz, Karidat executive director Lauri B. Ogumorro, Ina's Kitchen Chef Sonnie Sablan with his parents and Payless SuperFresh general manager Morgan Carrico.

According to Triple J Five Star Wholesale general manager Jay Santos, he and Sablan had this conversation "and I told him tacos are really popular in the mainland right now and maybe we could do a special and let everybody experience it. But even better was his idea of adding a dish in his menu called 'Wet Tacos' with Certified Angus beef from us using the portion of the sales to donate the money to Karidat and so the real winners here are Chef Sonnie and the Ina's Kitchen Team."

Karidat executive director Lauri B. Ogumoro said the donation will go straight to their food bank. Right now, Karidat is spending $20,000 a month to feed people "so this will help a lot towards our food voucher program."

"We would like to thank Ina's Kitchen and Triple J for thinking of us and choosing Karidat to receive the generous donation. The partnership between Triple J and Ina's Kitchen is great, and this donation will go a long way to help with our food project to help those in our community who are really struggling with effects the pandemic," she said.

Ogumoro said Karidat, which maintains a food pantry for charity, has given out food bags but, besides from being short-staffed, they also wanted people to keep practicing social distancing. That is when Karidat counselor Elaine Dela Cruz and team came up with the idea of giving out food vouchers to local grocery stores so recipients can have autonomy, and purchase what they eat, she said.

Ogumoro also detailed the amount of the vouchers given out depends on the family size and how much money Karidat has to distribute at the time. To determine this, Karidat case workers will talk to the family over the phone and categorize their needs and place a nominal value to be allotted per month. "We try to make [the funding] last and we have been helping people every month since the pandemic started. …We also advise these families to seek additional support if needed from other organizations, Salvation Army or Empty Vessel to fill the gaps as our food vouchers are not meant to completely sustain them throughout the month but more like supplement their needs. Unfortunately, we just don't have that type of funding. Nevertheless, there may be programs that are going to come out and we will try to get a grant but for the time being this system is works," she added.

To help promote Inas' Kitchen's Wet Taco campaign as well as create awareness leading to the purchases from the community, Triple J hosted two campaigns last month: Feed Yourself & Someone Else, with two winners: London Cabrera of Kagman and Kelsey Leila Lizama of Kagman.

## COMMUNITY BRIEFS

### Traffic arraignments at Horiguchi

This is to inform the public that the CNMI Superior Court will be hearing all traffic arraignment cases every Thursday at 9am at the Horiguchi building Courtroom 101 in Garapan starting Oct. 15, 2020. Visit the daily court calendar posted on the Judiciary's website at www.nmijudiciary.com. For additional information or assistance, contact the Office of the Clerk of Court at the CNMI Superior Court at (670) 235-4258 or 234-4253 or email Patrick.diaz@justice.gov.mp. ***(PR)***

### 4.7 magnitude quake in Yigo

At 5:23pm on Oct. 11, 2020, a report of a 4.7-magnitude earthquake occurred at 13.123°N 146.891°E in Yigo, Guam Currently, there are no tsunami warnings or advisories issued by the Pacific Tsunami Warning Center.

For more information, contact the CNMI EOC State Warning Point at 670-237-8000. ***(PR)***

MANGO
Marianas Alliance of Non-governmental Organizations

**MANGO Lemmai-Mei Nonprofit Incubator**

*Local Native nonprofit organizations will effectively operate projects that address barriers to prosperity that impact the Chamorro and Carolinian community members.*

Are you interested in helping grow non-profit businesses? Do you want to see non-governmental community programs strengthened? Can you imagine the power of unity among all CNMI nonprofit organizations? Just as the lemmai or mei (breadfruit) provides for our sustenance of life so does MANGO look forward towards empowering our nonprofit community. If you are passionate about community development and have an entrepreneurial spirit, then this might just be the job you've been dreaming about but thought too good to be true!

**Requirements** – A passion for our mission and an entrepreneurial spirit. Must be service oriented and have a good attitude along with a strong desire to help others learn. Excellent communications skills, superb organizational skills, self-motivation, and ability to lead others. You are not asking what to do next but devising ways to accomplish the project goals in a manner that the steering committee can approve of easily. Preference given to individuals who are fluent in Chamorro and/or Carolinian languages and those willing to commit the full 36-months of this ANA grant-funded project.

**Project Director – One full-time position.** The successful candidate will have a strong finance background, with a degree in accounting, nonprofit or business management, or relevant four years of experience. You have experience starting a business or a project from the ground up. Your job will be overseeing, executing, and managing the project as well as recruiting and engaging membership and vetting Lemmai-Mei project participants. You will know the importance of deadlines and compliance but manage with kindness and encouragement. You will have a passionate, mentoring spirit. The Project Director reports to the Executive Director and works in collaboration with the Training Director and the Project Controller.

**Program Assistant - One part-time position.** The successful candidate will have at least two years administrative work experience and high school diploma. You will be customer service oriented with strong communication skills and have experience with bookkeeping and data entry. Your job will require that you are flexible, self-motivated and good-humored. You will be eager to assist with anything and everything that gets the work plan done. The Program Assistant reports to the Project Director and the Training Director.

Marianas Alliance of Non-Governmental Organizations (MANGO) is a CNMI tax-exempt nonprofit organization. If you are interested in applying, please send an email to info@mangocnmi.org with the subject line "Jobs". Indicate which position you are interested in and why and attach your resume. Please include three references and their contact info.

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS
CNMI GOVERNMENT

INVITATION TO BID
**ITB NO.: DPW20-ITB-025**

**SUBMISSION DATE: November 3, 2020 TIME: 10:00 A.M.**

**"Construction of Garapan Fishing Base Dock Facility, Saipan"**

COPIES OF THE SPECIFICATIONS MAY BE OBTAINED AT THE TECHNICAL SERVICES DIVISION, DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS, LOCATED ON SECOND FLOOR, OLEAI JOETEN COMMERCIAL CENTER, SAN JOSE, SAIPAN, DURING REGULAR WORKING HOURS.

**THE PROVISIONS OF THE CNMI PROCUREMENT REGULATIONS, NMIAC SECTION 70-30.3-725 AND 70-30.3-730 PROHIBITING GRATUITIES, KICKBACKS AND CONTINGENT FEES SHALL APPLY.**

The project package will be available on or after **September 23, 2020** at Technical Services Division, Department of Public Works, located on Second Floor, Oleai Joeten Commercial Center, San Jose, Saipan.

There will be a **Pre-bid Conference** for this project on **October 16, 2020**, 9:00 a.m. local time at the Department of Public Works Conference Room 2nd Floor, Oleai Joeten Commercial Center Office, Saipan. The Prospective bidders are encouraged to familiarize themselves with the site. All question regarding this project must be submitted in writing no later than 4:30 p.m. local time on **October 26, 2020** to **Mr. Anthony A. Camacho, Director of Technical Services Division**, 2nd Floor, Oleai Joeten Commercial Center, Saipan or fax to (670) 234-3547. Response to questions shall be shared with prospective bidders.

THE CNMI GOVERNMENT RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY OR ALL BIDS, OR PORTIONS THEREOF, AND WAIVE IMMATERIAL DEFECTS IF TO DO SO WOULD BE IN THE BEST INTEREST OF THE CNMI GOVERNMENT.

/S/ PETER P. CAMACHO
ACTING SECRETARY, DPW

/S/ ANTHONY T. BENAVENTE
SECRETARY OF DLNR

/S/ FRANCISCO C. AGUON
ACTING DIRECTOR, P&S

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS
CNMI GOVERNMENT

INVITATION TO BID
**ITB NO.: DPW20-ITB-027**

**SUBMISSION DATE: October 28, 2020 TIME: 10:00 A.M**

**"Phase II Office Renovation for the Commonwealth Bureau of Military Affairs Facility (Building A & B), Saipan"**

COPIES OF THE SPECIFICATIONS MAY BE OBTAINED AT THE TECHNICAL SERVICES DIVISION, DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS, LOCATED ON SECOND FLOOR, OLEAI JOETEN COMMERCIAL CENTER, SAN JOSE, SAIPAN, DURING REGULAR WORKING HOURS.

**THE PROVISIONS OF THE CNMI PROCUREMENT REGULATIONS, NMIAC SECTION 70-30.3-725 AND 70-30.3-730 PROHIBITING GRATUITIES, KICKBACKS AND CONTINGENT FEES SHALL APPLY.**

A non-refundable payment of **One Hundred Dollars ($100.00)** is required for each set. Payment must be made to the CNMI Treasurer and a receipt of payment must be presented when obtaining the Scope of Work at DPW Technical Services Division required for each set.

There will be a Pre-bid Conference for this project on **October 13, 2020**, 10:00 a.m. local time at the Department of Public Works Conference Room 2nd Floor, Lower Base Transfer Station, Saipan. The Prospective bidders are encouraged to familiarize themselves with the site. All question regarding this project must be submitted in writing no later than 4:30 p.m. local time on **October 20, 2020** to **Mr. Anthony A. Camacho, Director of Technical Services Division**, 2nd Floor Oleai Joeten Commercial Center, Saipan or fax to (670) 234-3547. Response to questions shall be shared with prospective bidders.

THE CNMI GOVERNMENT RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY OR ALL BIDS, OR PORTIONS THEREOF, AND WAIVE IMMATERIAL DEFECTS IF TO DO SO WOULD BE IN THE BEST INTEREST OF THE CNMI GOVERNMENT.

/S/ PETER P. CAMACHO
ACTING SECRETARY, DPW

/S/ GLENNA SP. REYES
SPECIAL ASSISTANT TO THE GOVERNOR OF MILITARY AFFAIRS

/S/ FRANCISCO C. AGUON
ACTING DIRECTOR, P&S

# Opinion

Hafa Adai!
Saipan Tribune
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## EDITORIAL

# Don't be part of the 'twindemic.' Get a flu shot

**By MARIEL GARZA**
LOS ANGELES TIMES

On Tuesday, I biked over to the local Kaiser clinic to get my flu shot. I get one every year, but never this early.

I usually wait until the autumn heat wanes and Southern California's version of winter settles in, pushing people and gatherings inside where viruses spread more easily. This year, waiting for winter to get a flu shot seemed as risky as waiting for Nov. 3 to vote. I've had the flu. It's not an experience I wish to repeat—especially if there's a possibility of suffering from both the flu and COVID-19 at the same time.

And in 2020 it is a possibility. This year's flu season is coinciding with what appears to be the start of the second wave of the coronavirus pandemic. Reported cases of COVID-19 in the U.S. have risen over the last week, according to the COVID Tracking Project, setting new records in a handful of states. In Canada, where winter comes earlier than in much of the U.S., authorities say the second wave has already landed.

Although health experts don't know how hard the flu will hit this year, the prospect of a "twindemic" has them worried. Health providers are particularly urgent in their flu shot appeals this year, hoping to get their patients immunized before families come together for the holidays to share meals and pathogens.

Health authorities now agree that COVID-19 can be spread via aerosols that an infected person exhales (rather than expelling forcefully by a sneeze or cough), imbuing the air with the virus for up to three hours in an unventilated room. Influenza can spread that way too.

But even a mild flu season could overburden a medical system straining from COVID-19 cases. Remember the stories about overrun hospitals during the early days of the pandemic? Imagine how much worse things might be with a flu epidemic piled on.

In a typical year, millions of people in the U.S. are infected with influenza; over the last decade, hundreds of thousands of flu sufferers have been hospitalized, and between 12,000 and 61,000 people have died. The typical seasonal influenza is not nearly as deadly as COVID-19, but occasionally a particularly lethal strain breaks out of the routine. One of them was the "Spanish flu" of 1918 that killed between 50 million and 100 million people (medical record-keeping wasn't great 100 years ago).

And while it's not certain that having influenza makes a subsequent COVID-19 infection more dangerous, some medical professionals suspect that it could. Both viruses attack the respiratory system. They also present with symptoms so similar, it's hard even for physicians to tell them apart without a test.

***See DON'T on Next Page***

# Are hospitals ready for COVID's second wave?

**By LIONEL LAURENT**
Bloomberg Opinion

*Lionel Laurent is a* Bloomberg Opinion *columnist covering the European Union and France. He worked previously at Reuters and* Forbes.

The brutal experience of COVID-19's first wave humbled many rich countries where even generous health care systems were overwhelmed by an unfamiliar virus. Just as past outbreaks taught Asia hard truths about how to deal with pandemics, lessons from this novel coronavirus abound in the West: Italy has ramped up intensive-care capacity, France is paying health workers better and Spain is building a new pandemic hospital.

Thanks to these and other efforts, national lockdowns are being portrayed as a one-off. Yet as cases surge again in Europe, strains on critical-care resources are leading to economic shutdowns on local and regional levels.

COVID-19 patients fill more than a third of intensive-care beds in the Paris region. It's a similar story in Madrid. Blunt, lockdown-style measures—the closure of bars, gyms and other businesses—are being rolled out to slow case growth and hospital admissions. Even though the hospitalization rate is much lower than in the first wave, governments feel they have no alternative but to act now. They're worried about where that number will be in a month.

France's Institut Pasteur estimates 11,000 COVID patients could be in intensive care by November. That's not only above the country's maximum capacity in a pandemic emergency, but higher than the peak in April.

Given hospital metrics feed into governments' assessment of whether to take tough measures, there's frustration that so much focus is being put on deciding whether to shut bars or restaurants as opposed to expanding hospital capacity. According to Christophe Prudhomme, an emergency doctor in Paris, if France had structurally doubled bed capacity to 12,000 by now, the national COVID-19 occupancy rate would be around 10%—a level requiring no extra lockdown measures—and not 20%, which does. Are we shutting businesses when we should be building more beds?

The question is more complex than it seems. Intensive-care beds don't always lend themselves well to cost-benefit analyses in the eyes of government officials. The daily cost of one can be anything from around 2,000 euros ($2,347) to more than double that, according to Rosanna Tarricone, associate professor of health-care management at Bocconi University in Milan. You don't just need a mattress and medical equipment but the staff to operate it. And, crucially, it's an outlay that may save lives but without countering COVID-19's spread.

Policy makers therefore face a kind of "Jevons Paradox," the phenomenon where more supply of a service can increase demand rather than reduce it. Building more beds without getting a grip on the pace of new infections would only serve to fill them up while doing nothing to tackle the core problem. And when epidemics subside, the pressure to cut costs falls on what are suddenly empty beds.

Yet there are limits to strict efficiency analyses in these chaotic times. Governments have shown themselves capable of breaking all sorts of economic taboos, from subsidizing furloughed workers to joint borrowing at the European level. Dismissing hospitals as just another infrastructure "white elephant" looks extreme.

One answer could be to better allocate hospital resources that already exist, rather than permanently increase them everywhere. During COVID-19's first wave, France used special trains to ship patients around the country, and even across the border to Germany and Luxembourg. Cross-border cooperation makes even more sense now, with some countries being hit hard, while others such as Italy or Germany fare much better. Philippe Juvin, head of emergency services at Paris's Europeen Georges-Pompidou Hospital, has proposed creating a European reserve of medical staff and resources that could be sent from less affected countries to those facing saturation.

Another way to ease the strain on intensive-care units can involve reorganizing hospitals themselves. South Korea, which resisted COVID-19 lockdowns via extensive surveillance and testing, used its playbook from the 2015 MERS coronavirus outbreak to allocate patients based on symptom severity and bed availability. Patients were shared among community facilities, dedicated COVID-19 hospitals, and other locations. The community facilities, for instance, housed patients who reported their body temperature and any symptom changes using a mobile app or the telephone while they were there, making any on-site responses and eventual hospital transfer easier.

This would require rethinking how resources are used in a way that doesn't come easily to Western countries that were spared deadly pandemics for decades. It's also not a substitute for preventative measures. Test-and-trace systems have approached the brink of collapse in several countries—they could also do with European common standards and technology for contact-tracing apps, for example.

Still, if ever there was a time to view health care as a benefit to society and the economy, rather than a drag on public finances, it's now. If we want to learn to live with the virus, we should think about hospital beds, not just bars.

**EDITORIAL POLICY** Letters to the editor must include the NAME, VILLAGE ADDRESS, and CONTACT NUMBER of the contributor. Letters that do not have these information will immediately be trashed. Contributions consisting of 500 words or less have more chances of getting published. The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to publish a contribution or not; the right to edit submissions for length, accuracy, and clarity; and the right to publish and distribute contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats. Submissions may be sent via snail mail to the 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, 96950; fax (670) 235-3740; e-mail to editor@saipantribune.com; or through our website at www.saipantribune.com.

# COVID won't bring back the mobile American

**By PETER R. ORSZAG**
Bloomberg Opinion

*Peter R. Orszag is a* Bloomberg Opinion *columnist. He is the chief executive officer of financial advisory at Lazard. He was director of the Office of Management and Budget from 2009 to 2010, and director of the Congressional Budget Office from 2007 to 2008.*

Americans, once known for their propensity to move from state to state, have largely grown averse to such change. It may be true that the pandemic has brought a temporary reversal. When new official statistics are released in November, they may show a significant uptick in the share of people who moved in 2020. But any such increase will probably turn out to be an anomaly. After COVID-19, ongoing declines in geographic mobility will return.

In the 1950s and '60s, about 20% of Americans moved each year. Over the past couple decades, however, that share has fallen steadily. In 2018-19, it dropped below 10% for the first time since 1947, when the data begin. The reasons for this, explored in an article by my colleague Richard Florida and also an earlier one by me, have to do with an aging population, people's growing emotional attachment to their homes, and a decline in the number of people changing jobs.

This year is different. Some 22% of American adults either moved, had someone new move into their residence, or know someone who moved because of the pandemic, a Pew Research Center survey suggests. Those who have moved tend to be young; 18-29-year-olds are more than four times as likely to move as people aged 45 to 64. Much of the movement appears to have been away from urban centers and into suburbs, and this is consistent with real estate trends showing substantial new demand for housing outside cities.

The government statistics on mobility for 2020 may well confirm an overall increase in the share of Americans who moved. Or maybe not: The share of people in the Pew survey who actually moved, as opposed to having someone move in with them or knowing someone else who moved, was only 3%. And people who moved for reasons not related to the pandemic probably plummeted this year. The survey released in November, furthermore, is based on a survey from March, so it may not capture the full impact of COVID-related moves.

But assuming a temporary increase in mobility, what will happen going forward? Remote work may come to influence people's decisions about where to live. As Nick Bloom of Stanford University has emphasized, the pandemic has lessened the stigma associated with working from home. A survey conducted in May by the Atlanta Federal Reserve and the University of Chicago, furthermore, suggests that companies expect to see the share of their employees who work remotely full-time to rise to 10% after the pandemic, from 3% in 2019. In theory that could have two contradictory effects on geographic mobility: Since people can work from anywhere, fewer would move for a new job. On the other hand, existing employees may decide to move somewhere farther from the office.

I doubt that remote work will have a very large effect on geographic mobility, however. Bloom underscores that most workers want a mix of in-person and work from home, and the evidence also suggests that such a mix is what optimizes productivity. Even the employer survey suggests that 90% of workers would continue going into the office at least some of the time. So it's unlikely that remote work will substantially change the calculus on moving one way or the other for the vast majority of workers: People will still need to live close enough to the office to be able to go in a few days a week. (If the office itself moves, that could drive additional mobility, but to date most firms don't seem likely to undertake major physical moves in response to the pandemic.)

That leaves us with the preexisting trend. Americans are simply moving less. The problem with this is that it reflects and reinforces a more sclerotic labor market, which impedes economic convergence across various parts of the country and thus contributes to the polarization that has infected our political system.

The pandemic may temporarily disguise it, but the wanderlust long associated with American culture is gone.

**LETTER TO THE EDITOR**

# 'I want people to remember that they have choices'

Dear Republican Party president Mr. James Ada: Thank you for your open letter of Oct. 8, 2020.

I relied on a wide range of sources for the opinion piece I wrote last week, "A Legacy of Chaos: What They Want Us to Forget," on the Republican Party's record of performance in the Northern Marianas. In fact, I provided links to many of these sources in the post on my official Facebook page (see: https://www.facebook.com/notes/tina-sablan/a-legacy-of-chaos-what-they-want-us-to-forget/10158927015878586).

My sources include: local and international news reports; public laws and the legislative record; public records obtained from the Department of Finance and the Governor's Office; federal and local court documents; audited financial statements; video recordings of legislative hearings with administration officials regarding furloughs, sole-sourced contracts, and federal unemployment assistance; and records documenting illegal overtime and double pay for Cabinet members and other public officials, including yourself and senior policy adviser to the Governor Mr. Robert Hunter, during periods of disaster recovery, austerity, and mass furloughs.

I stand by my statements.

Regarding your claims about my brief stint in the restaurant business years ago: It is sad and unfortunate, to say the least, that in going after me the Republican Party is also attacking a small, locally-owned, family operation that has had nothing to do with me for the past six years and whose current owners and managers are not running for public office.

The coffee shop was a corporation when it opened for business in the late summer of 2013. I separated from the company shortly after its opening when I left the island for graduate school in August that year. I officially sold all my shares in the spring of 2014, when the paperwork was settled, but my actual involvement in the business ended months before that. To my knowledge, and according to the company, the restaurant has never been found in violation of any laws or regulations.

As for my part-time employment with the U.S. congressional office last year: that has always been a matter of public record. I disclosed it every time I recused myself from voting in the CNMI Legislature on matters in which I had a conflict. I disclosed it in my statements of financial interest, which all CNMI elected and appointed officials must file with the Office of the Public Auditor every year.

Anyone can ask for my statements of financial interest: I have waived confidentiality with the Public Auditor each time I have filed. CNMI law makes these statements of financial interest confidential records; my minority colleagues and I have proposed legislation to make them public. Chairman Ada, we would welcome your party's support of that legislation.

In addition to waiving confidentiality with OPA, I first made my statement of financial interest public with a press release that went out in October 2018, before the general election, and long before the GOP decided to make any noise about my part-time job.

I addressed the issue again in a piece on financial disclosure in August 2019, which I released to local media and posted on my Facebook page (see: https://www.facebook.com/notes/tina-sablan/financial-disclosure-should-be-the-rule-for-every-public-official-heres-mine/722917291512059). I provided details about the nature of my part-time contract with the congressional office, which I completed in June 2019, as well as a report of the income I received from both my federal job and my local elected position. I did take a significant pay-cut when I began serving in the CNMI Legislature.

It's not that unusual for federal congressional staffers, both Democrats and Republicans, to also hold local elected jobs (see: https://www.rollcall.com/2019/07/19/when-congressional-staffers-are-elected-officials-too/). You are free to disagree with it. You are also free to disagree with guidance I received from the U.S. House ethics committee, the CNMI House counsel, the CNMI Office of the Public Auditor, and the CNMI attorney general, all of whom I consulted prior to working the two jobs. You are free to disagree with anything I do. It's a free country.

And yes, my office has contracted part-time legal counsel, for a flat fee of $1,800/month, for three months. I have been appointed to serve on two special committees—one that is reviewing disaster-related funding for the Commonwealth, and another that is investigating the governor's expenditures. The Legislative Bureau has two regular full-time attorneys, both of whom serve House members on both sides of the aisle. Sometimes conflicts arise. Over the course of my work, particularly on the special committees, I have needed the advice of independent counsel.

Lastly, as to your charge of "divisiveness": I want people to remember that they have important decisions to make that will shape the future of our Commonwealth. I want people to remember that they have choices. For the first time in decades, we have a two-party system in the Northern Marianas. There are differences between what Democrats have to offer, and how Republicans have been running our government. People should remember how they vote makes a difference. That's not divisive. That's democracy.

**Tina Sablan**
*Member, CNMI House of Representatives*
*21st Legislature, Capital Hill*

## DON'T

*From Page 8*

One important difference between the two is that while we are still waiting for a COVID-19 vaccine, we do have one for influenza that's readily available at little or no cost. But astonishingly, less than half of American adults choose to take this simple preventive measure most years. Last year, just 48% of adults in the U.S. were immunized against influenza.

If you've never gotten a flu shot, this would be the year to start. There's no good reason not to. Manufacturers have ramped up production, and so far 105.5 million doses have been distributed in the U.S., with millions more to come. Health providers are trying to make it safe and easy to get the shots, offering walk-in and drive-up vaccination clinics.

Distrust in vaccines in general has been growing in recent years, but there is still a mountain of data that shows all vaccinations are overwhelming safe. And getting a flu shot does not make getting the flu more likely. The shot contains inactive virus and the nasal spray vaccine uses an active fragment too small to make you sick, both of which trigger the creation of antibodies that can help fight off an infection.

To be sure, getting a flu shot is no guarantee that you won't get infected. The effectiveness varies from year to year, but the vaccine rarely reduces your chance of getting sick by more than 50%. Developing seasonal flu shots is not an exact science because it requires scientists to predict which strain will be circulating far enough in advance that drugmakers can have doses ready by the time the flu season begins. But even if a flu shot doesn't stop an infection, it will make getting the flu less terrible and deadly.

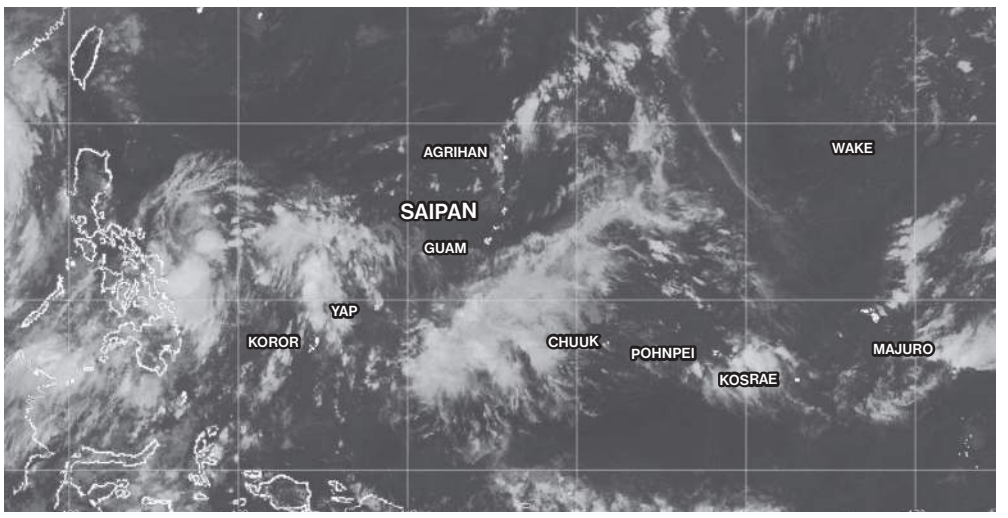
That was more than enough for me, even if there weren't another deadly virus circulating out there. And all it cost me was an hour out of one morning (Kaiser is nothing if not efficient in delivering preventive care)—and a day nursing a sore arm and achy body. That's nothing compared with the alternative.

# The Weather

## 5-DAY FORECAST FOR SAIPAN AND TINIAN

| TODAY | THURSDAY | FRIDAY | SATURDAY | SUNDAY |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Mostly cloudy with scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms. Northeast winds 10 to 15 mph. | Partly sunny with isolated showers and thunderstorms. East winds 10 to 15 mph. | Mostly cloudy with isolated showers and thunderstorms. | Mostly cloudy with scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms. | Mostly cloudy with scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms. |
| 87° 77° | 87° 76° | 87° 77° | 87° 77° | 87° 77° |

## YESTERDAY'S SATELLITE IMAGE




**PICTURE TIME: 6:51 AM, TUESDAY, OCTOBER 13, 2020**

Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

Partly cloudy skies, gentle east to northeast winds, and isolated showers are present this morning across the Marianas. On satellite imagery, deep convection associated with a surface trough is evident well south and southeast of the islands. Seas at the buoys are near 5 feet at Tanapag and Ritidian, and near 4 feet at Ipan.

*Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/*

## STOP THE SPREAD

The Governor's COVID-19 Task Force and Commonwealth Healthcare Corp. continue to encourage residents within the Marianas to practice social distancing, which means avoiding close contact with people in order to avoid catching the virus yourself and to avoid passing it on to others.

- Stay home as much as possible. Avoid unnecessary travel or public places.
- Avoid social gatherings in groups of more than 10.
- Choose drive-thru, take-out, or delivery options, or outdoor seating, if available, when dining in.
- Send only one healthy adult from the household run necessary errands, such as getting groceries or picking up medications. Leave children, elderly, and other vulnerable people at home as much as possible. When returning home from an errand, wash your hands before doing anything else.
- Older adults and people with chronic medical conditions are at higher risk of getting very sick from this illness. People at high risk should stay at home as much as possible.
- Create a household plan of action, https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/prepare/checklisthousehold-ready.html
- Ensure a 30-day supply of all medicines.

**Continue good hand hygiene**

- Wash your hands for at least 20 seconds with soap and water, avoid touching your face, cover coughs and sneezes with a tissue or your sleeve.
- Use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer if soap and water are not readily available.

**Know the signs and symptoms of COVID-19 and what to do if you become symptomatic**

- Stay home when you are sick and if you recently traveled to a place with COVID-19. Self-quarantine means:
- ❏ Choosing a room in your house that can be used to separate sick household members from others.
- ❏ Washing your hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds. If soap and water are not available, use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer.
- ❏ Avoiding touching your eyes, nose, and mouth with unwashed hands.
- ❏ Limiting visitors

CHCC appreciates the patience and understanding of the community at this time. To obtain general information about the CNMI COVID-19 response, contact the Governor's COVID-19 Task Force Hotline at 287-0046, 287-0489, 287-1089. These numbers are available Monday to Sunday, 7:30am - 4:30pm.

For medical information about COVID-19, reach out to the COVID-19 Infoline at the following numbers: 285-1672/1352. These numbers are available Monday to Friday, 7:30am - 4:30pm.

For mental health support and helpful tips during a crisis, call the Mental Health Support Line at 285-1856, 323-6560, 323-6561 These numbers are available Monday to Friday, 7:30am - 4:30 pm. For the 24/7 Disaster Distress Helpline, call SAMSHA at 1-800-985-5990.

For more information about DIY face coverings, visit https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/prevent-getting-sick/cloth-face-cover.html

For more information about CHCC programs, follow CHCC on Facebook, Instagram, Twitter at @cnmichcc, check out our website at www.chcc.gov.mp or call us at (670) 234-8950.

For more information on the Governor's COVID-19 Task Force, visit www.governor.gov.mpand, follow @GovernorCNMI on Facebook, Instagram, and Twitter.

This health advisory may be found online at http://www.chcc.gov.mp/pressrelease.html and at www.governor.gov.mp/covid-19.

**Rumor control**

During crises like this, oftentimes the spread of misinformation is just as dangerous as the virus itself. The CNMI is reminded to only share official and verified notices, press releases, and advisories from the Governor's COVID-19 Task Force and CHCC.

*Source: Office of the Governor*

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| MICRONESIA | ▲ ▼ °F | |
|---|---|---|
| Guam and Rota | Thunderstorms | 85° / 78° |
| Palau | Thunderstorms | 86° / 77° |
| Yap | Thunderstorms | 85° / 79° |
| Chuuk | Partly Cloudy | 88° / 81° |
| Pohnpei | Partly Cloudy | 88° / 81° |
| Kosrae | Thunderstorms | 88° / 77° |
| Majuro | Partly Cloudy | 86° / 81° |

| DAY | SUNRISE | SUNSET |
|---|---|---|
| Today | 6:08 AM | 5:57 PM |
| Thursday | 6:08 AM | 5:56 PM |
| Friday | 6:08 AM | 5:56 PM |
| Saturday | 6:08 AM | 5:55 PM |
| Sunday | 6:09 AM | 5:54 PM |

| DAY | MOONRISE | MOONSET | MOONRISE |
|---|---|---|---|
| Today | 3:15 AM | 4:08 PM | - |
| Thursday | 4:15 AM | 4:54 PM | - |
| Friday | 5:16 AM | 5:40 PM | - |
| Saturday | 6:17 AM | 6:26 PM | - |
| Sunday | 7:19 AM | 7:15 PM | - |

| AROUND THE GLOBE | ▲ ▼ °F | |
|---|---|---|
| Auckland | Partly Cloudy | 61° / 52° |
| Beijing | Partly Cloudy | 63° / 39° |
| Hong Kong | Partly Cloudy | 86° / 75° |
| Honolulu | Partly Cloudy | 85° / 75° |
| London | Showers | 63° / 50° |
| Los Angeles | Sunny | 75° / 58° |
| Manila | Thunderstorms | 88° / 79° |
| Melbourne | Partly Cloudy | 64° / 52° |
| Miami | Showers | 85° / 78° |
| New York | Showers | 72° / 61° |
| Osaka | Partly Cloudy | 79° / 66° |
| Paris | Partly Cloudy | 66° / 54° |
| Busan | Rain | 66° / 55° |
| Rome | Partly Cloudy | 75° / 54° |
| Salem | Thunderstorms | 88° / 70° |
| San Francisco | Sunny | 65° / 48° |
| Seoul | Showers | 59° / 46° |
| Tokyo | Partly Cloudy | 82° / 64° |
| Washington, DC | Showers | 73° / 66° |

| TIDES: SAIPAN HARBOR TODAY | | FEET |
|---|---|---|
| 4:43 AM | HIGH TIDE | 1.68 |
| 11:27 AM | LOW TIDE | 0.03 |
| 6:10 PM | HIGH TIDE | 1.96 |
| 12:14 AM | LOW TIDE | 0.65 |

## FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF SEPTEMBER 11, 2020

### DEPARTURES

**SAIPAN-GUAM (GUM)**

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| UA117 | 7:30am | 8:10am | 1, 4 |
| UA117 | 7:50am | 8:30am | 6 |

**SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL)**

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| UA117/183 | 7:30am | 9:10pm | 1 via Guam |

**GUAM-MANILA (MNL)**

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| UA183 | 7:25pm | 9:10pm | 1 via Guam |
| UA183 | 9:05pm | 10:50pm | 5 via Guam |

### ARRIVALS

**GUAM (GUM)-SAIPAN**

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| UA174 | 5:50am | 6:31am | 1, 4 |
| UA174 | 6:15am | 6:56am | 6 |

**MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN**

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| UA184/174 | 11:45pm | 6:56am+1 | 5 via Guam |

**MANILA (MNL)-GUAM**

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| UA184 | 10:25pm | 4:25am+1 | 1 via Guam |
| UA184 | 11:45pm | 5:33am+1 | 5 via Guam |

LEGEND: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); UA United Airlines • ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. *(The Saipan Tribune is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)*

## STAR MARIANAS AIR, INC.

### FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF OCTOBER 8, 2020

**SAIPAN TO ROTA**

| FLIGHT # | DEPARTURE | ARRIVAL | FREQUENCY |
|---|---|---|---|
| 1301 | 8:30AM | 9:00AM | Mon/Tues/Wed/Thurs/Fri |
| 1302 | 11:00AM | 11:30AM | Mon/Tues/Wed/Thurs/Fri |
| 1303 | 3:30PM | 4:00PM | Mon/Wed/Fri |

**ROTA TO SAIPAN**

| FLIGHT # | DEPARTURE | ARRIVAL | FREQUENCY |
|---|---|---|---|
| 3101 | 9:30AM | 10:00AM | Mon/Tues/Wed/Thurs/Fri |
| 3102 | 12:00AM | 12:30AM | Mon/Tues/Wed/Thurs/Fri |
| 3103 | 4:30PM | 5:00PM | Mon/Wed/Fri |

**ROTA TO GUAM**

| FLIGHT # | DEPARTURE | ARRIVAL | FREQUENCY |
|---|---|---|---|
| 3401 | 12:15 | 12:45 | Temporarily Unavailable |

**GUAM TO ROTA**

| FLIGHT # | DEPARTURE | ARRIVAL | FREQUENCY |
|---|---|---|---|
| 4301 | 13:00 | 13:30 | Temporarily Unavailable |

**SAIPAN TO TINIAN**

| FLIGHT # | DEPARTURE | ARRIVAL | FREQUENCY |
|---|---|---|---|
| 1201 | 7:00 | 7:15 | Temporarily Unavailable |
| 1202 | 8:00 | 8:15 | Daily |
| 1203 | 9:00 | 9:15 | Daily |
| 1204 | 10:00 | 10:15 | Temporarily Unavailable |
| 1205 | 11:00 | 11:15 | Temporarily Unavailable |
| 1206 | 12:00 | 12:15 | Temporarily Unavailable |
| 1207 | 13:00 | 13:15 | Temporarily Unavailable |
| 1208 | 14:00 | 14:15 | Temporarily Unavailable |
| 1209 | 15:00 | 15:15 | Daily |
| 1210 | 16:00 | 16:15 | Daily |
| 1211 | 17:00 | 17:15 | Temporarily Unavailable |
| 1212 | 18:00 | 18:15 | Temporarily Unavailable |

**TINIAN TO SAIPAN**

| FLIGHT # | DEPARTURE | ARRIVAL | FREQUENCY |
|---|---|---|---|
| 2101 | 7:30 | 7:45 | Temporarily Unavailable |
| 2102 | 8:30 | 8:45 | Daily |
| 2103 | 9:30 | 9:45 | Daily |
| 2104 | 10:30 | 10:45 | Temporarily Unavailable |
| 2105 | 11:30 | 11:45 | Temporarily Unavailable |
| 2106 | 12:30 | 12:45 | Temporarily Unavailable |
| 2107 | 13:30 | 13:45 | Temporarily Unavailable |
| 2108 | 14:30 | 14:45 | Temporarily Unavailable |
| 2109 | 15:30 | 15:45 | Daily |
| 2110 | 16:30 | 16:45 | Daily |
| 2111 | 17:30 | 17:45 | Temporarily Unavailable |
| 2112 | 18:30 | 18:45 | Temporarily Unavailable |

## Boastful fly

**By Kagman Middle School student**

Lightning streaks across the sky,
Hitting a nearby fly,
The fly got roasted for
he boasted
That he is the strongest
and could last the longest!

## Fire

**By TANMS student/CCLHS class**

Fire warm and bright
Could help you find your way
at night.
Fire comes from dragons
That could burn hundreds
of wagons.
It flickers on a candle,
Fire so hot that only divine
can handle.

## Magellan

**By GTC student**

Ferdinand Magellan is my name,
I sailed the world for Spain,
I made some battle scenes,
And I died in Philippines.

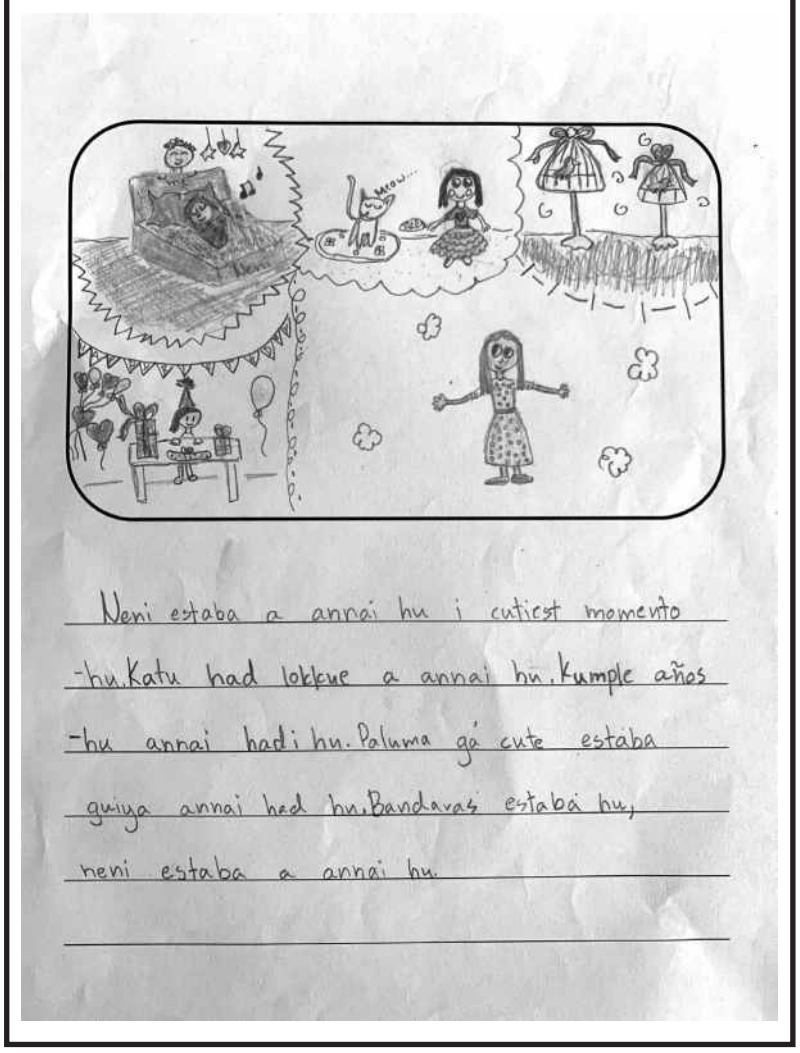
## Love is Pain and Felicity

**By ILAIZA CAMACHO**
ROTA JUNIOR SENIOR HIGH SCHOOL

Love is arbitrary never the same
It plays with your heart, can you
take the pain?
Rarely does it happen, will
you risk it?
Say, is it worth even a little bit?
Love is a joy and some-
times a burden
The pain you receive, cannot be
bargained
You either go through it or not,
your choice
Hardly is it something you
can avoid
Though, I will not lie, love is
a treasure
I promise one day, it will
get better
Loving can be hard, so don't
give up yet
Your love is out there, you just
haven't met
Love isn't meant to be
easy or kind
One day your hearts will soon be
intertwined

## THE CUTEST MOMENTS OF MY LIFE

GTC student/CCLHS class of teacher Miss Magofña.


Meni estaba a annai hu i cutiest momento
-hu. Katu had lokkue a annai hu. Kumple años
-hu annai hadi hu. Paluma gá cute estaba
guiya annai had hu. Bandavas estabai hu,
meni estaba a annai hu.

## Water

**By TANMS student/CCLHS Class**

Water, running and rushing,
Gently hushing.
Nature's inhabitants,
From deer to ants,
Pushing rocks,
And entering the ocean near
the docks.

## Tornadoes

**By TANMS student**

Wizard makes tornadoes from air,
So strong that nobody
could bear.
Tornadoes swish and swirl,
And make roofs curl.
Air is part of the atmosphere
Which protects our green and
blue sphere.

## Ice

**By TANMS student/CCLHS Class**

Frozen water, also, ice
When used in magic is very nice
Ice could be used in spells
It could freeze anything like bells
It could stop anyone until the
spell is done.

## Magic

**By TANMS student/CCLHS class**

Magic-the possession of wizard.
May cause anything like blizzard.
Anything bad, such as
black magic
Could be very tragic.
Magic could be an optional
illusion,
Getting better through every
evolution.

## THANK YOU

The Saipan Tribune Youngstyle Section is published with the assistance of the following:

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Idea & Development

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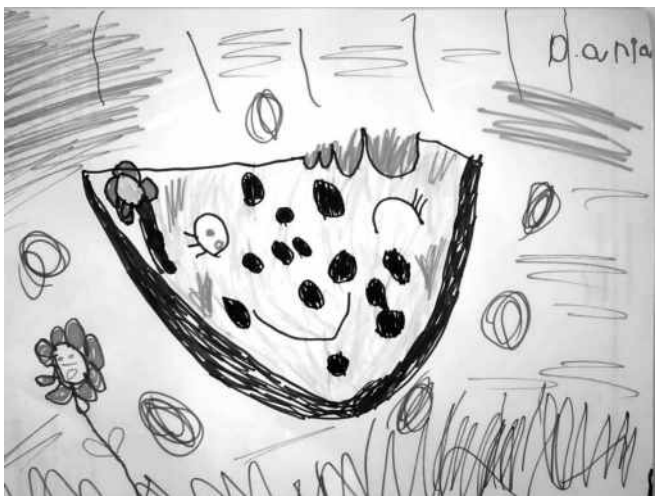
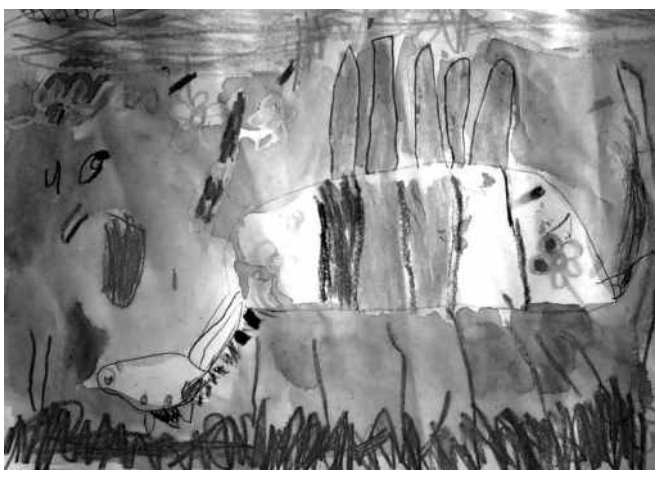
Contributors

Daria Shatskova, 4 years old, Mount Carmel School Saipan, K-4.

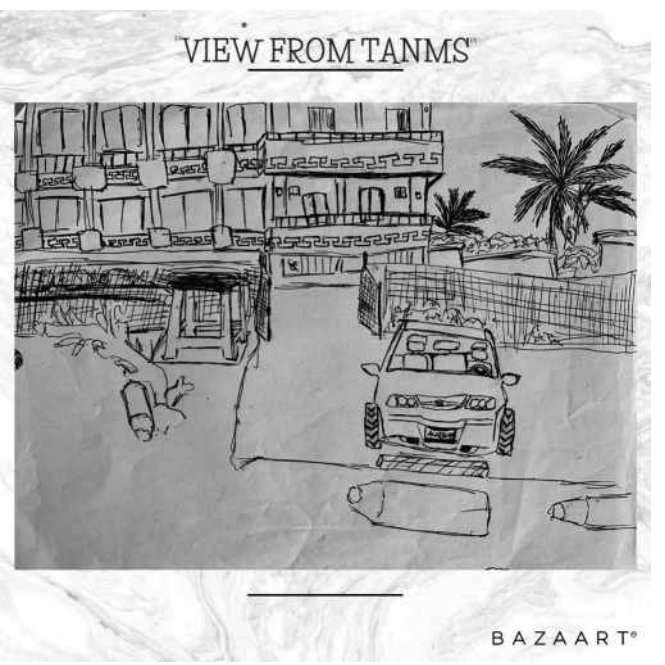


YOUNGSTYLE CONTRIBUTOR

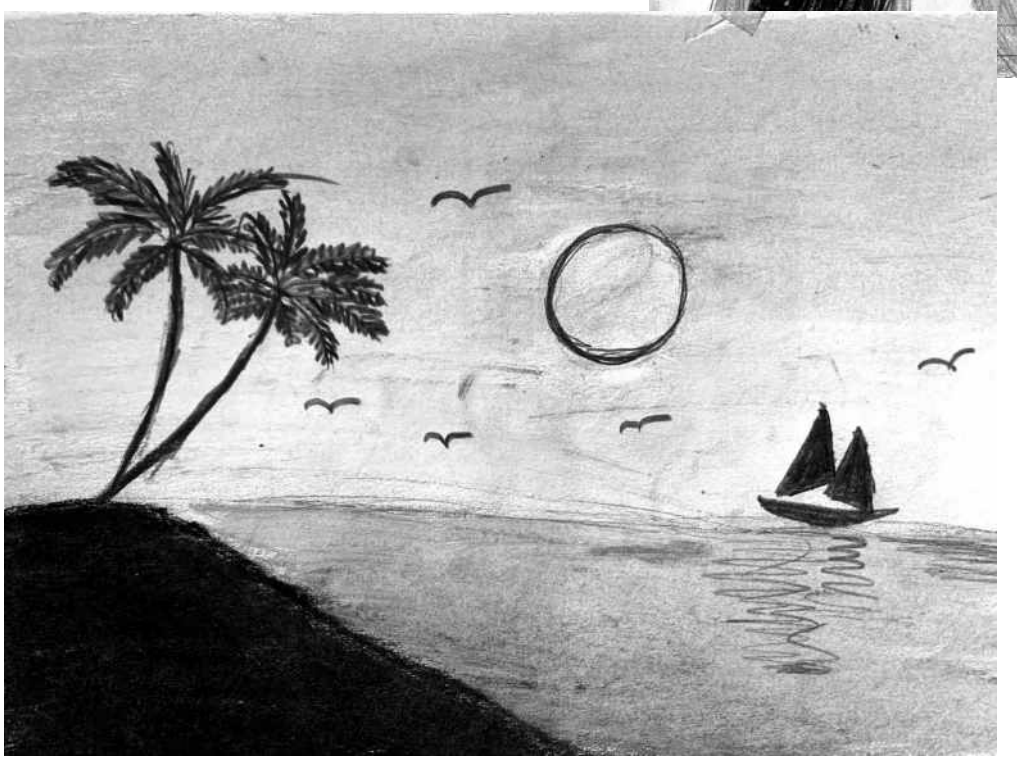
Drawn by William S. Reyes Elementary School student.

YOUNGSTYLE CONTRIBUTOR




Drawing by TANMS student.

YOUNGSTYLE CONTRIBUTOR



Philip Megino, 8th grade, Tanapag Middle School.

# Business

## IT&E gives free access to online learning platforms

With the shift of the learning landscape and families now choosing remote learning for their children during the COVID-19 crisis, IT&E announced it provided free access to online learning platforms for students and teachers starting last Oct. 9.

In particular, IT&E-CNMI said provided data for unlimited access to three online platforms currently used by students and teachers.

This was be effective last Friday, Oct. 9, 2020.

The online platforms included in IT&E's Remote Learning Program are:

■ Blackboard Learning Management System ("Blackboard")

■ Blackboard Ultra ("Ultra")

■ G Suite for Education: Google Classroom, Meet, Calendar, Gmail, Docs, Sheets, Slides, Duo, Hangouts and Chat

"We remain committed to supporting our students and teachers. Learning remains vital and essential, including and especially during this public health crisis. It is also critical that we prioritize the safety and wellbeing of our education stakeholders," said IT&E CNMI general manager Rose Soledad.

### How the process works

IT&E's subscribers can avail of this program if they currently have a wireless plan under the Student or Teachers discount.

Soledad explained that students and teachers in the CNMI are now able to access online learning platforms via the mobile application and websites on their mobile phones or by using mobile data hotspot and it will not be applied to their personal data consumption.

In addition, students and teachers get 10% off their monthly payment on a 24- or 12-month plan. They can choose from any plan, including Unlimited, 10 GB and 5 GB Data Plans.

To sign up for the student and teacher discount and free data for distance learning resources, students and teachers must simply provide their school ID or other verification when signing up in-store or upload the documents when signing up online at ite.net.

Details and a full list of acceptable documents can also be found at ite.net.

IT&E's Remote Learning Program is also available as an add-on to select wireless plans for $5 a month. ***(PR)***

## Facebook bans Holocaust denial, distortion posts

Facebook is banning posts that deny or distort the Holocaust and will start directing people to authoritative sources if they search for information about the Nazi genocide.

Facebook CEO Mark Zuckerberg announced the new policy Monday, the latest attempt by the company to take action against conspiracy theories and misinformation ahead of the U.S. presidential election three weeks away.

The decision comes amid a push by Holocaust survivors around the world who lent their voices to a campaign targeting Zuckerberg beginning this summer, urging him to take action to remove Holocaust denial posts from the social media site.

Coordinated by the Conference on Jewish Material Claims Against Germany, the #NoDenyingIt campaign used Facebook itself to make the survivors' entreaties to Zuckerberg heard, posting one video per day urging him to remove Holocaust-denying groups, pages and posts as hate speech.

The testimonials coincided with an advertising boycott by companies pushing Facebook into taking a stronger stand against various forms of hate speech and extremism around the world.

Facebook said Monday that the new policy "is supported by the well-documented rise in anti-Semitism globally and the alarming level of ignorance about the Holocaust, especially among young people." Surveys have shown some younger Americans believe the Holocaust was a myth or has been exaggerated.

Tech companies began promising to take a firmer stand against accounts used to promote hate and violence after a 2017 rally in Charlottesville, Virginia, where a self-described white supremacist drove into a crowd of counterprotesters. Yet Facebook and other companies have been slower to respond to posts that amplify false information, but don't pose an immediate threat of violence or other physical harm.

Zuckerberg said in a blog post Monday that he believes the new policy strikes the "right balance" in drawing the lines between what is and isn't acceptable speech.

"I've struggled with the tension between standing for free expression and the harm caused by minimizing or denying the horror of the Holocaust," he wrote. "My own thinking has evolved as I've seen data showing an increase in anti-Semitic violence, as have our wider policies on hate speech."

Zuckerberg had raised the ire of the Claims Conference, based in New York, and others with comments in 2018 to the tech website Recode that posts denying the Nazi annihilation of 6 million Jews would not necessarily be removed. He said he did not think Holocaust deniers were "intentionally" getting it wrong, and that as long as posts were not calling for harm or violence, even offensive content should be protected.

After an outcry, Zuckerberg, who is Jewish himself, clarified that while he personally found "Holocaust denial deeply offensive" he believed that "the best way to fight offensive bad speech is with good speech."

The Anti-Defamation League said it was relieved by Monday's shift but criticized Facebook for taking nearly a decade after the New York-based group first began to publicly call on the company to curb Holocaust denial in 2011. The group tracked more anti-Semitic incidents in the U.S. last year than at an any time over the past four decades, and has said it continues to find Holocaust denial groups on Facebook, some hidden and most private.

"While Facebook has made numerous positive changes to its policies since that time, it stubbornly had held onto this outrageous platform policy, even in the face of the undeniable threat of growing antisemitism and antisemitic violence around the world," the group's CEO, Jonathan Greenblatt, wrote in a blog post.

The Claims Conference on Monday said it welcomed Zuckerberg's changed approach and the company's decision to take action after its campaign of survivor testimonials.

"It's a very important statement and it's a building block toward ensuring that this sort of anti-Semitism is not amplified," said Greg Schneider, the group's executive vice president. ***(AP)***

# Nation

## Barrett to face senators on health care, legal precedent

**WASHINGTON** (AP)— Supreme Court nominee Amy Coney Barrett will face senators' questions over her approach to health care, legal precedent and even the presidential election during a second day of confirmation hearings on track to lock in a conservative court majority for years to come.

AP

Supreme Court nominee Amy Coney Barrett is sworn in during a confirmation hearing before the Senate Judiciary Committee, Monday, Oct. 12, 2020, on Capitol Hill in Washington.

The mood is likely to shift to a more confrontational tone as Barrett, an appellate court judge with very little trial court experience, is grilled in 30-minute segments Tuesday by Democrats gravely opposed to President Donald Trump's nominee, yet virtually powerless to stop her rise. Republicans are rushing her to confirmation before Election Day.

"This should not be President Trump's judge," said Sen. Amy Klobuchar, D-Minn., a member of the Senate Judiciary Committee. Democrats say the winner of the presidential election should choose the nominee.

"This should be your judge," she said.

Barrett presented her approach to the law as conservative and fair on Monday at the start of fast-tracked confirmation hearings. Democrats cast her as a threat to Americans' health care coverage during the coronavirus pandemic.

With her husband and six of their seven children behind her in a hearing room off-limits to the public and altered for COVID-19 risks, Barrett delivered views at odds with the late Ruth Bader Ginsburg, the liberal icon whose seat Trump nominated her to fill, laying out a judicial philosophy she has likened to that of her conservative mentor, the late Justice Antonin Scalia.

"Courts are not designed to solve every problem or right every wrong in our public life," declared the 48-year-old federal appeals court judge, removing the protective mask she wore most of the day to read from a prepared statement.

Americans "deserve an independent Supreme Court that interprets our Constitution and laws as they are written," Barrett told the committee.

The Senate, led by Trump's Republican allies, is pushing Barrett's nomination to a quick vote before Nov. 3, and ahead of the the latest challenge to the Affordable Care Act, which the Supreme Court is to hear a week after the election.

## California GOP says it owns unofficial ballot drop boxes

**LOS ANGELES** (AP)— California's Republican Party on Monday acknowledged owning unofficial ballot drop boxes that state election officials said are illegal.

After receiving reports about the drop boxes in three counties, California's secretary of state issued a memo Sunday telling county registrars these boxes were illegal and that ballots must be mailed or brought to official voting locations.

"In short, providing unauthorized, non-official vote-by-mail ballot drop boxes is prohibited by state law," the memo said.

On Monday, state GOP spokesman Hector Barajas said that the party owns the boxes and has no plans to remove them. He would not say how many exist or where they are located. Barajas said the state's law governing so-called ballot harvesting allows an organization to collect and return groups of ballots and that collection boxes provided by a private organization to help people vote are no different.

"Democrats only seem to object to ballot harvesting when someone else does it," Barajas said.

The controversy surfaced after state election officials received reports of the boxes in Fresno, Los Angeles and Orange counties, all regions with highly competitive U.S. House races. Democrats have blasted the use of the unofficial boxes and say they fear Republicans could use them to gather and dispose of ballots.

In California, ballot harvesting is allowed under certain rules. Election officials said individual voters can ask someone else to turn in a ballot on their behalf but should be careful when doing so.

In Orange County, which is home to 3 million people between Los Angeles and San Diego, a regional field director for the state's GOP posed in a social media photo with one of the boxes and wearing a face covering supporting the congressional campaign of Michelle Steel, a county supervisor challenging Democratic Rep. Harley Rouda for his seat representing a coastal district. Rouda flipped the seat two years ago from a longtime conservative.

There were reports of similar drop boxes at a church in the Los Angeles County community of Castaic and at various locations in Fresno County in California's farm-rich Central Valley, including party headquarters, a gas station and gun shops.

In Orange County, Registrar of Voters Neal Kelley said said official drop boxes are clearly recognizable and carry official county elections logo. He said it wasn't clear how many voters had used unofficial boxes but after receiving reports about them, he notified the state and district attorney's office, which is investigating.

Fresno County Republicans said they will remove the boxes and ballots will be turned in to county election officials, which was always the plan, the Sacramento Bee reported Party Chair Fred Vanderhoof saying.

# Asia

## OVER LEADERSHIP STANDOFF

# PH Congress enters crisis

**MANILA, Philippines** (AP)—A large faction of Philippine legislators in the House of Representatives elected a new leader Monday, but the incumbent speaker declared the vote a "travesty" in a tense political standoff between two allies of the president.

President Rodrigo Duterte warned last week that he would intercede if the leadership row between House Speaker Alan Peter Cayetano and Rep. Lord Allan Velasco threatens the passage of next year's budget. The 4.5 trillion peso ($90 billion) budget is crucial in helping finance the government's response to the coronavirus pandemic in a country with the largest number of confirmed infections in Southeast Asia.

The dispute, however, took a turn for the worse when Velasco's supporters gathered in person and online on Monday in a sports club in Quezon City in the capital region, declared Cayetano's position vacant and elected Velasco to replace him.

Cayetano and his allies declared in a news conference at the House that the vote for Velasco violated the law and the rules of the 300-member legislative chamber, which is dominated by Duterte's allies. They mocked Velasco and his supporters for holding a session in a sports club outside Congress and said they used a fake mace, a symbol of House authority.

AP

Representative Lord Allan Velasco speaks after being sworn in as the new house speaker by supporters at the Celebrity sports club in Quezon city, Philippines on Monday, Oct. 12, 2020.

"They're throwing away the constitution, they are asking for a revolutionary government," Cayetano said. "What happened today is really a travesty."

Cayetano's camp says it has the backing of 205 legislators. It asked Velasco to identify the 186 lawmakers his camp claims voted him to the speakership, along with a new House secretary-general and sergeant-at-arms.

Duterte has called for a special session of the House starting Tuesday to hasten the passage of the national budget, but it's unclear how that will occur with two rival speakers claiming the post.

Rep. Luis Raymund Villafuerte Jr., a close Cayetano ally, said if Velasco can prove he has the support of a majority of the lawmakers, Cayetano's camp will agree that he get the speakership in a legal House procedure after the budget is passed.

"We're lawmakers. We're starting to become a laughing stock because those who attended there are showing they're law breakers. Let us not destroy the institution," Villafuerte told reporters.

Duterte brokered a power-sharing deal last year in which Cayetano would assume the speakership for 15 months until this month, to be followed by Velasco, who would serve as speaker for the remaining 21 months.

## Hong Kong leader seeking Beijing's help for ailing economy

**HONG KONG** (AP) — Hong Kong Chief Executive Carrie Lam said Monday she will fly to Beijing to ask Chinese leaders for help to pull the territory out of its economic slump.

Lam said an annual speech she was due to make this week about government plans will be postponed until she returns from Beijing. She said she would go this month but gave no date.

Lam's announcement came just two days before her policy address at the start of the local legislative session was scheduled to take place. There are reports that Chinese President Xi Jinping will soon travel to the southern Chinese city of Shenzhen, which borders Hong Kong, to commemorate the 40th anniversary of its status as a special economic zone.

Lam also will travel to Shenzhen for the commemoration activities but she said she has no scheduled meetings with Xi there.

The leader of Hong Kong, a semi-autonomous Chinese territory, typically gives a policy address at the start of each legislative year.

Although Lam said that convention was not "cast in stone", it is the first time that the policy address has been postponed in the city's history. Last year, Lam gave the policy address online via video-conference after she was heckled by pro-democracy lawmakers while attempting to give her speech in the legislative chamber.

Lam said she is seeking Beijing's support for several measures she proposed to help boost the economy, which contracted 9% in the second quarter of this year, marking a full year of recession due to last year's anti-government protests and the pandemic.

Lam said support from Beijing would help her to give a speech later in the year that would boost confidence in the city's economic future.

"For our economy to revive, we need the support of the mainland. We have to better integrate into the national development plan," she said.

"It is an indisputable fact that Hong Kong's economic growth is very related to what we are going to do in our work with the mainland economy," Lam said.

Lam told reporters she will travel to Beijing in late October to attend meetings with various ministries and commissions and see if the central government will support her proposals. She declined to give details.

"The supporting policies of central authorities would go a long way to boosting the confidence in our economy as well as the revival of economic activity in Hong Kong," she added.

Confidence in Hong Kong's semi-autonomous status, promised to the city when Beijing took control of the former British colony in 1997, has been shaken as mainland authorities moved to impose a national security law over the territory this summer.

Lam's decision to delay her speech was seen by some critics as evidence she is too beholden to Beijing.

# World

# Kyrgyz president orders new state of emergency

**MOSCOW** (AP)—Kyrgyzstan's president on Monday ordered a new, week-long state of emergency in the country's capital after parliament failed to consider and approve his previous order within the legally required three days.

The confusion reflected the chaos that has engulfed the country after a disputed parliamentary election triggered mass protests.

According to the office of President Sooronbai Jeenbekov, the state of emergency in Bishkek is to last from 8 p.m. Monday to 7 a.m. on Oct. 19 and implies a curfew, a ban on rallies and other public events, and travel restrictions. The new decree also reiterates the order to deploy troops to the capital to enforce the measure.

Jeenbekov's previous decree declaring a state of emergency in Bishkek was signed Friday, when a protest in the city turned violent and gunshots were fired at several political leaders. It became void Monday, as lawmakers didn't consider it within three days.

Jeenbekov

Kyrgyzstan, a country of 6.5 million located on the border with China, plunged into chaos last week after mass protests erupted the day after a parliamentary election appeared to show parties connected to the ruling elite winning. Protesters stormed and seized government buildings, looting some offices, and the Central Election Commission responded by nullifying Sunday's balloting.

Members of some opposition parties announced plans to oust Jeenbekov and form a new government. An emergency parliament session on Oct. 6 named former lawmaker Sadyr Zhaparov as a new prime minister, but the move was immediately contested by other opposition groups.

Lawmakers voted on Saturday to seal Zhaparov's appointment, but Jeenbekov, who said he may consider stepping down only after the political situation in the country stabilizes, is yet to sign a decree confirming it.

Protests in Bishkek continued most of last week, with supporters of rival factions occasionally clashing with each other.

Jeenbekov declared a nearly two-week state of emergency in Bishkek on Friday and ordered the military to send troops to the capital in a bid to end the turmoil. Convoys of military trucks were seen driving into the city, but it wasn't immediately clear whether police and the military would comply with the presidential order.

A curfew in Bishkek was announced on Saturday and amended Monday, following Jeenbekov's new decree, to last from 10 p.m. to 5 a.m.

## Iran shatters its single-day record for virus deaths, cases

**TEHRAN, Iran** (AP)—For the second day in a row, Iran shattered its single-day record for new deaths and infections from the coronavirus, with 272 people confirmed dead among more than 4,200 new cases on Monday.

Like in many other countries, the spiraling outbreak in Iran reflects the government's contradictory virus response. This month, as the daily recorded death toll reached the triple digits, authorities announced tighter restrictions for the hard-hit capital of Tehran. Recently reopened universities and schools, as well as libraries, mosques, cinemas, museums and beauty salons, shut down. On Saturday, the government mandated that all Tehran residents wear face masks outdoors and in public places, warning violators would be fined. Cabinet spokesman Ali Rabiei promised those who tested positive would be closely tracked.

And yet enforcement and measures like contact-tracing in the country of 80 million remain a challenge. Those who disobey face fines of just 500,000 riyals, or $1.60, roughly the price of a burger downtown. Many residents, tired of staying home, now ignore the rules about masks and social distancing to pack indoor cafes and restaurants. As residents defy coronavirus precautions and the government resists a lockdown to salvage its economy, Iran's caseload is skyrocketing.

Iran's health minister Saeed Namaki made an appeal on Sunday for harsher punishments, according to the state-run IRNA news agency, noting the meager fines for maskless residents would do nothing to boost vigilance. Lamenting that the health ministry's 7,000 inspectors couldn't handle the sprawling city of over 10 million, he empowered the police and Basij forces, a paramilitary wing of the Revolutionary Guard used for internal security, to help enforce pandemic rules. In the coming weeks, Namaki added, authorities plan to extend the mask mandate to other major cities.

Iran emerged early in the pandemic as a global epicenter of the virus and has since seen the worst outbreak in the Middle East, with more than 500,000 confirmed cases and 28,800 deaths. Leaders first played down the virus's risks and, as hospitals filled up, international experts suspected Iran was hiding the true number of infections and deaths. Authorities have since admitted that the outbreak is more severe than reported, with a recent parliamentary report putting the number of infections at "eight to 10 times" higher than official numbers.

Movement restrictions this spring somewhat checked the spread of the disease. Then the government swiftly reopened the country, desperate to boost its stricken economy. Since June, the case count has steadily increased—and spiked to new heights in recent weeks.

Long before the virus hit, Iran's economy was ailing, pummeled by U.S. sanctions after the Trump administration's unilateral withdrawal in 2018 from Tehran's nuclear accord with world powers. As the death toll soared on Sunday, the nation's currency plunged to its lowest level ever, following the U.S. administration's decision last week to blacklist Iranian banks that had so far escaped the bulk of re-imposed American sanctions.

# Life & Style

AP

In this undated photo made available Monday, Oct. 12, 2020, ancient Greek and Roman marble statues are seen prior to going on display in the newly refurbished Villa Caffarelli, one of the Capitoline Museum's exhibition spaces overlooking the ancient Roman Forum, in Rome.

## Torlonia Collection
### of ancient marbles displayed in Rome

**ROME** (AP)—One of the most important private collections of ancient Greek and Roman marble sculptures is going on display in Rome as part of the Eternal City's 150th anniversary celebrations.

The 90 works from the Torlonia Collection were opening Monday in the newly refurbished Villa Caffarelli, one of the Capitoline Museum's exhibition spaces overlooking the ancient Roman Forum. Organizers said there were plans to offer to lend the works to other museums, but said the coronavirus pandemic had put those plans on hold for now.

The 620-piece Torlonia Collection is considered one of the greatest private collections of classical art, featuring marble busts, reliefs, sarcophagi and statues. It was begun by one of Rome's 19th century patricians, Prince Alessandro Torlonia, and was created in part from archaeological excavations of the Torlonia family's various estates in Rome.

The selections presented in the new exhibit recount the history of the collection's growth itself and include the 1884 catalogue the prince commissioned to show off his collection when he opened his own museum to house it.

Culture Minister Dario Franceschini told a press conference Monday that it was unfortunate that COVID-19 restrictions would limit the number of people who can visit as well as the show's near-term lending prospects. But he said the works "take your breath away."

## China classical music festival to feature Wuhan musicians

**BEIJING** (AP)—China is holding its first classical music festival since the start of the coronavirus pandemic, featuring musicians from the outbreak's initial epicenter in an attempt to aid in the psychological and emotional healing process.

Zou Ye, a composer from Wuhan, the central Chinese city where the virus was first detected late last year, said that Saturday night's concert is part of an effort to work through frustration and helplessness on the way toward love and tolerance and, hopefully, some meaning to what he calls "nature's tremendous revenge."

Musicians from the Wuhan Philharmonic Orchestra will present a choral symphony "To 2020" dedicated to the victims of COVID-19, co-written by Zou and two partners.

More than 11 million people in Wuhan and its surrounding area underwent a draconian 76-day lockdown at the start of the pandemic. The city accounts for 3,869 of China's 4,634 deaths from the virus and the bulk of its more than 85,000 cases.

The end of the lockdown on April 8 was seen as a key turning point in China's battle against the virus, which has now been contained, with no cases of local transmission reported in more than two months.

The emotional trauma still lingers for many survivors, victims' families and frontline health workers, and music can offer another medium for exploring such feelings, Zou said.

## Killer Mike to earn Change Maker Award at Billboard Awards

**NEW YORK** (AP)—Grammy-winning rapper and social-political activist Killer Mike will receive the first Billboard Change Maker Award at the 2020 Billboard Music Awards.

NBC and dick clark productions announced the new award and recipient Monday, two days ahead of the show, which will air live on NBC from the Dolby Theatre at 8 p.m. EDT.

Atlanta-born Killer Mike first made waves in music with his appearance on Outkast's 2000 album, "Stankonia." He later won a Grammy with the duo for the Top 20 pop hit "The Whole World." He's also a member of the hip-hop duo Run the Jewels, which released their fourth album in June.

## Norway's aging king discharged after heart surgery

**COPENHAGEN, Denmark** (AP)—King Harald V of Norway was discharged from the main hospital in Oslo on Monday after a successful operation to replace a heart valve.

"The king is in good shape," the monarch's doctor, Bjoern Bendz, said after the surgery at the Rikshospitalet's Cardiovascular and Lung Clinic.

The palace earlier had said that the intervention was necessary to improve the 83-year-old king's breathing. Last month, the king was hospitalized with breathing difficulties. Doctors ruled out COVID-19.

Harald will be on sick leave this month, the palace said. His son and heir to the throne, Crown Prince Haakon, has stepped in and taken over his father's duties.

In 2005, the king's aortic valve was replaced by an artificial heart valve. Such valves have a lifespan of between 10 and 15 years, the royal household had said.

## Penguin Random House, PEN America team up to Book the Vote

**NEW YORK** (AP)—Neil Gaiman, Anita Hill and Ann Patchett will be among the contributors to Book the Vote, an online initiative to provide information on the electoral system, voting registration and civic topics.

Book the Vote is a collaboration among Penguin Random House, PEN America, the non-profit organization When We All Vote and the literary retailer Out of Print, which is owned by Penguin Random House.

The web site will include videos from Gaiman, Hill, Patchett and other authors and public figures, including Jennifer Egan, Jeffrey Toobin, Susan Orlean and Alan Cumming. One feature is called "How America Works" and covers four topics: the right to vote, voting for the president, the Supreme Court and the electoral college.

"Truth, facts, press freedom, and the future of open discourse are all on the ballot this November," PEN America CEO Suzanne Nossel said in a statement.

## Perfect guy on the outside becomes abusive at home

DEAR ABBY: I have been with "Dylan" for three years, engaged for two. I have a lot of insecurities about it.

We met right after my husband's death. Dylan was the perfect guy in the beginning. Looking back, I realize there were a lot of red flags.

He spends most of his time on Facebook or talking about his high school years. He is also secretive. He acts like the world's nicest guy around others, but when we're alone, he calls me stupid and insecure. I never knew what a narcissist was before, but I believe he is one.

I built a business, which has done very well. I'm liked by everyone but him. People have told me to run. Why do I torture myself? Last week he broke my windshield because I asked him about his phone, which he is always using to text someone. I want to be happy, and I feel like a loser right now. My kids don't like him at all. Help me, please.

UNHAPPY IN THE MIDWEST

**DEAR UNHAPPY: I am concerned about you. Because you now feel that your verbally abusive fiance could become violent (Exhibit A: your broken windshield), place a call to the National Domestic Violence Hotline (800-799-7233) and ask someone to help you craft an escape plan. Your next call should be to the police to file a report about that broken windshield. Your third should be to your family to find out if you and your kids can stay with one of your relatives.**

**It is important you get safely out of there, so do NOT disclose to this man any of the preparations you are making. It goes without saying that this engagement should be broken.**

**DEAR ABBY:** I have an issue that I can't be the only one with, especially as our parents age. My mother has never been the cleanest or most sanitary of housekeepers. Everything "looks" neat and straight, but look closer and you'll realize her place is unsanitary and filthy.

When I visit, I am near tears the entire time. My husband tells me to stay in a hotel, but I don't know how to tell my mother I don't feel comfortable staying with her. I bring along my own towels and washcloths. I take us out for meals so we don't have to use her dishes.

I'm not a clean freak, and this is not my imagination. A friend of hers contacted me to tell me she was concerned about Mom because she doesn't seem to notice how dirty her house is or that her food is spoiled. I'm embarrassed for her.

I've tried to talk to my mother about this many times in the past, but she just doesn't get it. I have had her carpets shampooed and brought in professionals to do deep cleaning. How can I tell her I can't stay with her any longer?

GROSSED-OUT DAUGHTER IN MARYLAND

**DEAR DAUGHTER: Tell your mother that you love her, and you have been concerned for years about her living conditions, which is why you hired professional cleaners periodically to help her. Delivering the message that you will be staying in a hotel when you visit is the least of your problems. Clearly, she needs more help than you can give her.**

**I, too, am concerned about the fact she doesn't know the food in her refrigerator has spoiled, and for that reason, I'm suggesting you discuss this with a social worker in the town where your mother resides. She may need someone to check on her regularly, ensure that her kitchen and fridge are kept clean and grocery shop for her. Believe me, you and your mother both have my sympathy.**

Good advice for everyone -- teens to seniors -- is in "The Anger in All of Us and How to Deal With It." To order, send your name and mailing address, plus check or money order for $8 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby, Anger Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Shipping and handling are included in the price.)

**DEAR ABBY**
**By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN**
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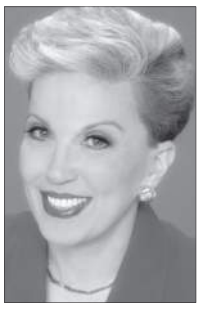


*Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Contact Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.*

# Pastimes

## Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson

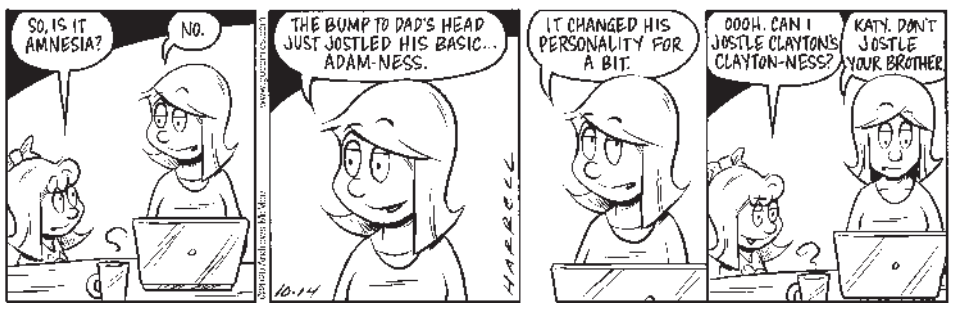
EVERYONE TAKES ME FOR GRANTED! NOBODY PAYS ANY ATTENTION TO MY NEEDS!
IS IT TOO MUCH TO ASK FOR AN OCCASIONAL TOKEN GESTURE OF APPRECIATION?!
OK, HOW ABOUT A BIG HUG?
COULD I HAVE 20 DOLLARS?
SEE?! I DON'T MATTER TO ANYONE! NOBODY CARES ABOUT ME!

## Garfield®

By Jim Davis

## Adam@home

By Bryan Basset


SO, IS IT AMNESIA?
NO.
THE BUMP TO DAD'S HEAD JUST JOSTLED HIS BASIC... ADAM-NESS.
IT CHANGED HIS PERSONALITY FOR A BIT.
OOOH. CAN I JOSTLE CLAYTONS CLAYTON-NESS?
KATY. DON'T JOSTLE YOUR BROTHER
10-14

## The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy

## CROSSWORD

*By Eugene Sheffer*

**ACROSS**

1 English channel?
4 Carry on
8 Big name in oil
12 Floral ring
13 Work on proofs
14 Author Quindlen
15 Slugger Mel
16 Prospering
18 Porcelain
20 Small battery
21 "— la Douce"
24 Rosters
28 Built to last
32 "Would — to you?"
33 Fury
34 Gridiron units
36 Nabokov novel
37 Little dent
39 Renovated
41 Door sign
43 Ebb
44 Astern
46 Blow one's top
50 Going too far
55 Miss Piggy's pronoun
56 Andean land
57 — Romeo
58 Group of whales
59 Criminal, to cops
60 Farmer's place
61 Devious

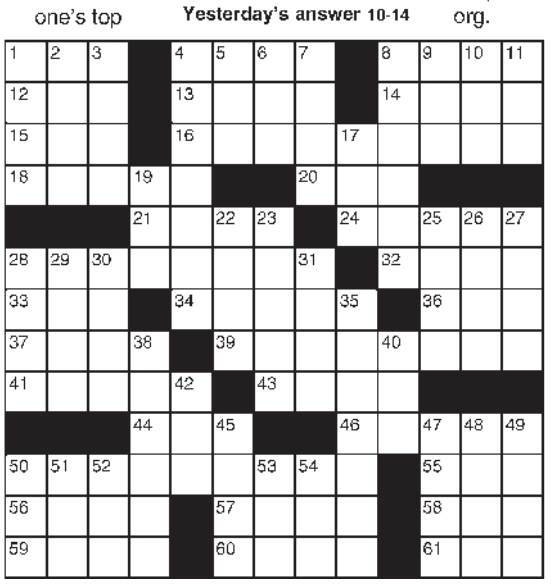
**DOWN**

1 Voting group
2 "Little Women" sister
3 New York's — Field
4 Soviet fighting force
5 Fuss
6 Half of XIV
7 Sicilian volcano
8 Aloha State
9 Compass dir.
10 NBC show since 1975
11 Bando of baseball
17 Lass
19 Goose egg
22 Sir's counterpart
23 End in — (go unresolved)
25 Pole, e.g.
26 Ocean motion
27 Cauterize
28 Broad
29 Ireland
30 Pre-Easter period
31 Icelandic epic
35 Mali neighbor
38 Prepare
40 Not 'neath
42 "Mayberry —"
45 Frog's relative
47 Diamond heads?
48 Motel amenity
49 Shipshape
50 Antonym (Abbr.)
51 Geese formation
52 Mess up
53 — -de-France
54 Dolphins' org.

**Solution time: 23 mins.**

| | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| S | N | C | B | | N | O | R | M | | T | A | T |
| E | C | R | U | | A | R | E | A | | C | C | T |
| W | O | C | Z | I | N | E | S | S | | M | A | Y |
| | | | Z | C | O | M | | S | Y | B | I | L |
| I | B | S | E | N | | | P | I | E | R | | |
| S | E | C | S | | W | O | O | F | W | C | O | F |
| A | T | H | | S | O | R | E | S | | K | I | R |
| W | O | C | L | C | O | A | T | | R | A | S | E |
| | | O | A | R | S | | | P | E | W | E | E |
| M | A | L | T | A | | D | I | E | D | | | |
| A | L | B | | W | O | O | D | C | H | J | C | K |
| S | T | J | | L | O | N | E | | O | G | R | E |
| K | O | S | | S | H | E | A | | T | H | U | G |

**Yesterday's answer 10-14**



**STUMPED?** For answers to today's crossword, call **1-900-226-5955**! 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

**CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY:** Mekai Curtis, 20; Usher, 42; Natalie Maines, 46; Lori Petty, 57.

**Happy Birthday:** Keep a level head, take one day at a time and be at peace with yourself. Letting the past consume you or giving in to demanding people will hold you back, but energetically pursuing something that lights up your heart and gives you hope will transcend into an exciting adventure. Embrace the future with gratitude. Your numbers are 9, 13, 21, 25, 32, 38, 42.

**ARIES** *(March 21-April 19):* Push hard, and live up to your promises. Refuse to let anyone's negativity stand in your way. Treat challenges as opportunities to show your worth. Take charge, and do what you do best. Don't let anger hold you back. ✪✪✪

**TAURUS** *(April 20-May 20):* A change is in your best interest. A smart move will make a difference in how well you do mentally, physically and emotionally. Refuse to let someone's financial burden become your own. Offer suggestions, advice and moral support — nothing more. ✪✪✪✪✪

**GEMINI** *(May 21-June 20):* Think twice before you meddle or gossip. You'll get more than you bargained for if you don't stick to your schedule and take care of responsibilities that can make a positive difference. Leave well enough alone, and do your own thing. ✪✪

**CANCER** *(June 21-July 22):* Keep your temper under control, and you will surpass expectations. Don't waste time disagreeing with someone who will never see things your way. Concentrate on home, family and meaningful relationships. Choose peace over discord, and personal gains will be yours. ✪✪✪✪

**LEO** *(July 23-Aug. 22):* Don't be fooled by someone spouting false information. Stick to your beliefs, and choose to put your energy where it will have the most significant impact. Be a leader, not a follower. Select your friends and associates wisely. ✪✪✪

**VIRGO** *(Aug. 23-Sept. 22):* Make a statement, do your part and support what's best for everyone. Your strength and courage will help transform what's not working for you. Share your feelings and concerns in order to gain peace of mind. Love and romance will enhance your life. ✪✪✪

**LIBRA** *(Sept. 23-Oct. 22):* Take a pass when faced with demands. It's your choice to say no and move in a direction that suits your needs, not another's. Choose what makes you happy, and don't feel guilty for wanting what brings you joy. ✪✪✪

**SCORPIO** *(Oct. 23-Nov. 21):* Pay attention to detail, and you will outshine anyone who challenges you. Take a unique approach to life, love and happiness. A positive change at home will allow you to spend more time fulfilling a goal. Do what's most appealing. ✪✪✪✪

**SAGITTARIUS** *(Nov. 22-Dec. 21):* Take a moment to mull over sensitive issues before you try to turn a wrong into a right. How you treat others determines how willing others are to help you. Do for yourself; don't rely on anyone for anything. ✪✪

## EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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**CAPRICORN** *(Dec. 22-Jan. 19):* Push forward. Refuse to let what others do slow you down. Take charge of your destiny, and make things happen. Live in the moment, let go of the past and watch opportunities unfold. Make a promise to someone you love. Romance is favored. ✪✪✪✪✪

**AQUARIUS** *(Jan. 20-Feb. 18):* Concentrate on investments, legal matters and contracts. Abide by the rules, and leave no room for error. Refuse to let what others do sidetrack you or tempt you to cut corners or take on too much. Walk away from manipulative people. ✪✪✪

**PISCES** *(Feb. 19-March 20):* You'll thrive on change, in-depth discussions and investments that excite you. A partnership will enhance how you do things and give you the time and space to expand what you do best. Love, romance and commitment are favored. ✪✪✪

**Birthday Baby**: You are persistent, goal-oriented and smart. You are consistent and benevolent.

*Visit Eugenialast.com, or join Eugenia on Twitter/Facebook/LinkedIn.*

# SUDOKU

**Conceptis Sudoku** *By Dave Green*

| | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | | | 4 | 7 | |
| | | | 9 | 8 | 6 | 5 |
| | | | 1 | 5 | 3 | 9 |
| | | 2 | 3 | | 6 | 5 | 8 |
| | 7 | 8 | | | | |
| 5 | 3 | 8 | | | | |
| 1 | | 9 | 5 | | | |
| 6 | | | 4 | | | |
| 8 | 2 | 5 | 1 | | | |

Difficulty Level ★★★ 10/14

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

**Yesterday's Answer**

| | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 4 | 5 | 7 | 2 | 8 | 1 | 6 | 3 | 9 |
| 8 | 6 | 3 | 4 | 9 | 5 | 7 | 1 | 2 |
| 9 | 1 | 2 | 7 | 6 | 3 | 5 | 4 | 8 |
| 6 | 3 | 8 | 5 | 1 | 9 | 4 | 2 | 7 |
| 1 | 4 | 9 | 6 | 7 | 2 | 8 | 5 | 3 |
| 7 | 2 | 5 | 8 | 3 | 4 | 1 | 9 | 6 |
| 5 | 9 | 6 | 1 | 2 | 8 | 3 | 7 | 4 |
| 2 | 8 | 4 | 3 | 5 | 7 | 9 | 6 | 1 |
| 3 | 7 | 1 | 9 | 4 | 6 | 2 | 8 | 5 |

Difficulty Level ★★

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## WONDERWORD®

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally and even backward. Find them, circle each letter of the word and strike it off the list. The leftover letters spell the WONDERWORD.

CATS CAN BE SULKY — Solution: 9 letters

| | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| S | F | C | D | W | E | R | H | S | U | O | I | V | E | D |
| U | U | S | R | E | T | I | O | L | Y | T | F | I | H | S |
| O | R | O | H | A | D | O | D | G | I | N | G | C | S | I |
| I | T | G | U | I | W | T | E | D | G | E | N | D | S | D |
| T | I | E | N | C | R | L | E | V | E | I | I | N | Ⓨ | E |
| I | V | G | E | I | I | K | P | P | R | O | W | L | Ⓗ | S |
| T | E | E | C | R | T | P | R | E | V | E | N | T | Ⓢ | T |
| P | L | K | I | R | C | T | S | A | T | H | S | S | I | E |
| E | Y | T | I | L | I | S | O | N | S | R | S | B | D | P |
| R | I | K | P | P | E | C | I | L | O | Y | E | U | O | W |
| R | S | I | T | C | L | D | I | D | P | C | L | V | H | E |
| U | L | O | R | O | S | N | E | A | K | E | N | I | O | H |
| S | E | E | S | V | K | W | A | R | D | H | T | I | W | C |
| E | T | E | P | E | E | R | C | U | N | N | I | N | G | S |
| Y | T | F | A | R | C | A | M | O | U | F | L | A | G | E |

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Avoids, Camouflage, Closet, Covert, Crafty, Crawl, Creep, Cunning, Deep, Devious, Discreet, Dodging, Edge, Elude, Eschew, Furtively, Hiding, Hush, Inch, Inconspicuous, Loiter, Observe, Plotting, Prevents, Prowl, Secret, Shifty, Shirk, Shrewd, Shy, Sidestep, Skirt, Slink, Slip, Sneak, Surreptitious, Tiptoe, Tricky, Veiled, Wily, Withdraw

**Yesterday's Answer: Emergency**

Treasuries 24 through 41 can be purchased online at www.WonderWordBooks.com.

# Rays take 2-0 lead over Astros in ALCS

**SAN DIEGO** (AP)—Back in the ballpark where he started his big league career, Manuel Margot of the Tampa Bay Rays had a breakout game in the AL Championship Series with a three-run home run and a spectacular catch while tumbling over a wall in right field.

Asked which was bigger in the 4-2 victory against the Houston Astros, Margot said through a translator: "Definitely the home run. The home run didn't hurt."

The home run was huge, for sure, because it helped the Rays get halfway to the World Series with a 2-0 lead in the best-of-7 series.

But they'll be talking about the catch for a long time.

With two outs in the second and runners on second and third, Margot tracked George Springer's long foul ball to right field while shielding his face from the sun. He caught it as he tumbled over a padded railing atop a wall and landed on a walkway near the seats down the line at Petco Park.

Margot popped up, smiled and held up his glove with the ball in it after a 102-foot sprint.

Margot was shaken up a little but stayed in the game.

"Approaching it you don't really realize how high it is but it gets a little lower once you go over the wall, so once I actually started to flip and realized it was a little bit further of a drop, that's when I got a little scared," Margot said.

Margot played with the San Diego Padres from late in the 2016 season until being traded to Tampa Bay in the offseason. He played one game in right field in 2016 and the rest of his time in San Diego was spent in center.

"To have the ability to know where you're at, and kind of be able to say, 'Forget it, I know I'm going to hit something but I'm going in,' and still hang on to the ball, was really, really impressive," manager Kevin Cash said.

His teammates raved about the catch.

"He sold out," winner Charlie Morton said. "Those guys are all in for each other and they put their bodies on the line. They've been doing that all year. That play was unbelievable."

Shortstop Willy Adames said Margot "was going with determination. He was going to do whatever it took to make that catch. It was an unbelievable play that he made on the right field line, putting himself in a dangerous place. I'm just happy for him, after that homer. It was amazing. I hope he continues to help the team win like that."

Margot homered to straightaway center field on an 0-1 pitch from Lance McCullers Jr. with two outs in the first. It followed the first of two errors by second baseman José Altuve on a grounder to shallow right field by Ji-Man Choi. Altuve's throw hit the ground before going in and out of first baseman Yuli Gurriel's glove.

The play originally was ruled an error on Gurriel, but the official scorer later charged the error to Altuve. When Gurriel returned to the dugout, he slammed his glove onto the bench.

Margot's big plays made a winner of 36-year-old Morton, who helped Houston win the 2017 World Series, and spoiled an otherwise fine effort by McCullers.

AP

Tampa Bay Rays right fielder Manuel Margot reaches over a right field wall after catching a foul ball by Houston Astros center fielder George Springer during the second inning in Game 2 of the American League Championship Series, Monday, Oct. 12, 2020, in San Diego.

## Braves win NLCS opener

Atlanta Braves fans were still doing tomahawk-chop chants as they filed out of the stadium, real people who replaced the cardboard cutouts players got so accustomed to this season.

One game, but a big boost for the Braves in their first National League Championship Series since 2001.

Austin Riley led off the ninth inning with a tiebreaking homer that sparked a four-run rally Monday night for a 5-1 win over the Los Angeles Dodgers in the first major league game this season with fans allowed to attend.

"It was awesome—fun to play in front of fans again," Braves slugger Freddie Freeman said. "11,000 people, really felt like 50,000 to us because we haven't had any all year."

Riley greeted reliever Blake Treinen with a 448-foot drive to left-center, giving Atlanta a 2-1 lead and generating a familiar noise in the ballpark that only got louder.

"I didn't feel my legs when I was running around the bases, so it was a good feeling," said the 23-year-old Riley, left off the postseason roster last year.

And the Braves weren't done.

Ronald Acuña Jr. followed with a double and scored on a single by Marcell Ozuna that chased Treinen. Ozzie Albies added a two-run homer off Jake McGee.

"It's what these guys do. I've said we're like an NBA game, you don't want to leave because a lot of things don't happen until the last third," Braves manager Brian Snitker said. "These guys never quit, they keep grinding at-bats and doing their thing, and it's a pretty neat trait for a ballclub to have."

Game 2 in the best-of-seven series is Tuesday, with Atlanta rookie Ian Anderson set to face three-time Cy Young Award winner Clayton Kershaw.

# Djokovic still tops rankings, Nadal at No. 2

**PARIS** (AP)—Rafael Nadal's 6-0, 6-2, 7-5 victory over Novak Djokovic in the French Open on Sunday for a 13th championship at Roland Garros and 20th Grand Slam trophy in all—tying Roger Federer's record for men—did not change the top of the ATP rankings.

Djokovic, who won the Australian Open in February for his 17th major title, is still No. 1, with Nadal at No. 2, followed by U.S. Open champion Dominic Thiem and Federer.

French Open women's champion Iga Swiatek joined the Top 20 for the first time Monday by rising 37 spots in the WTA rankings to a career-best No. 17.

The 19-year-old Swiatek entered the French Open at No. 54 and became the lowest-ranked female champion at the clay-court Grand Slam tournament since the WTA computer rankings began in 1975.

Her 6-4, 6-1 victory over Sofia Kenin on Saturday gave Swiatek the first tour-level title of any sort in her professional career and made her Poland's first Grand Slam singles champion.

Kenin's run to the final—the first time she made it to the quarterfinals on clay anywhere— allowed her to move up two places to No. 4, matching her career high. The 21-year-old American went 16-2 in Grand Slam matches in 2020, winning her first such trophy at the Australian Open in February.

The Top 3 in the women's rankings remained as they were before the French Open, with Ash Barty at No. 1, Simona Halep at No. 2, and Naomi Osaka at No. 3. Serena Williams is No. 10.

When competition resumed in August after a hiatus of about five months because of the coronavirus pandemic, the tours decided to allow players to use either their 2019 or 2020 results at any given tournament for rankings purposes, so Barty wasn't hurt by sitting out the French Open a year after winning it.

Osaka also sat out the trip to Paris this time, opting to rest and recover after her championship at the U.S. Open last month.

Halep did compete at the French Open, but her 6-1, 6-2 loss to Swiatek in the fourth round didn't affect the three-time major champion's ranking.

In the ATP, Argentina's Diego Schwartzman, who reached his first Grand Slam semifinal before losing to Nadal, cracked the Top 10 for the first time, jumping to No. 8 from No. 14.

Russia's Andrey Rublev also made his Top 10 debut Monday, using a second consecutive major quarterfinal appearance to go to No. 10 from No. 12.

The biggest mover in the men's Top 100 was Jannik Sinner, whose quarterfinal showing—he was beaten by Nadal—pushed the 19-year-old Italian up 29 places to No. 46 from No. 75.

## Murray: Nadal record unbeatable

Andy Murray predicts Rafael Nadal's record of 13 French Open titles will never be beaten as the British looks to bounce back in Cologne this week from his own Roland Garros disappointment.

Murray, 33, the reigning Olympic champion, crashed out of last month's French Open in straight sets with a lopsided first round defeat to Stan Wawrinka as he works his way back from hip surgery.

On Sunday, the Murray watched in awe as Nadal, 34, demolished Novak Djokovic in the finals.

Nadal equaled the all-time record of 20 Grand Slam titles held by Roger Federer, who hailed Nadal's victory as "one of sport's greatest achievements".

Murray echoed the Swiss legend and doubts anyone will even get close to Nadal's record in Paris.

"It's an amazing achievement. I don't think that what he has done at Roland Garros will ever be beaten. I just don't see it being topped," Murray said in Cologne.

"He is one short of winning the same amount of Grand Slams as (Pete) Sampras did just at one tournament. It's incredible.

"I don't think it'll be repeated and I don't think anyone will be close."

Murray reached the second round of the US Open in his first Slam since hip resurfacing surgery and Roland Garros was his third tournament this year after rehab.

Having needed wildcards to play in Paris and Cologne, Murray hopes the back-to-back ATP indoor tournaments on the Rhine can help improve his current ranking of 97th.

# AD not going anywhere, to re-sign with Lakers

**FLORIDA**—Anthony Davis has a $28.8 million player option for next season. There is zero chance he picks that up.

Which makes Davis a free agent. He's going to re-sign and stay a Laker after winning his first ring, right?

"I have no idea. I don't know," Davis said when asked right after the Lakers clinched the title.

That's not exactly what Lakers' fans want to hear. This answer later was better.

"I had a great time in L.A. this first year. This has been nothing but joy, nothing but amazement," Davis said. "Over the next couple of months, we'll figure it out. I mean, I'm not 100% sure, but that's why my agent is who he is and we'll discuss it and figure it out."

Davis not fully committing is right out of the playbook of his agent—Rich Paul, the same agent as LeBron James—and something LeBron has always done. Leave the door open for negotiations.

In reality, Davis isn't going anywhere. For one thing, he forced himself to the Lakers both to win a title (box checked) and to increase his visibility and help his marketing. He's not leaving that now for the teams with max cap space (you think he's leaving LeBron and the Lakers for Atlanta or Charlotte?).

Second, the Lakers can offer more money—$32.7 million next season, part of five years at $189.9 million (this assumes a flat salary cap from this season).

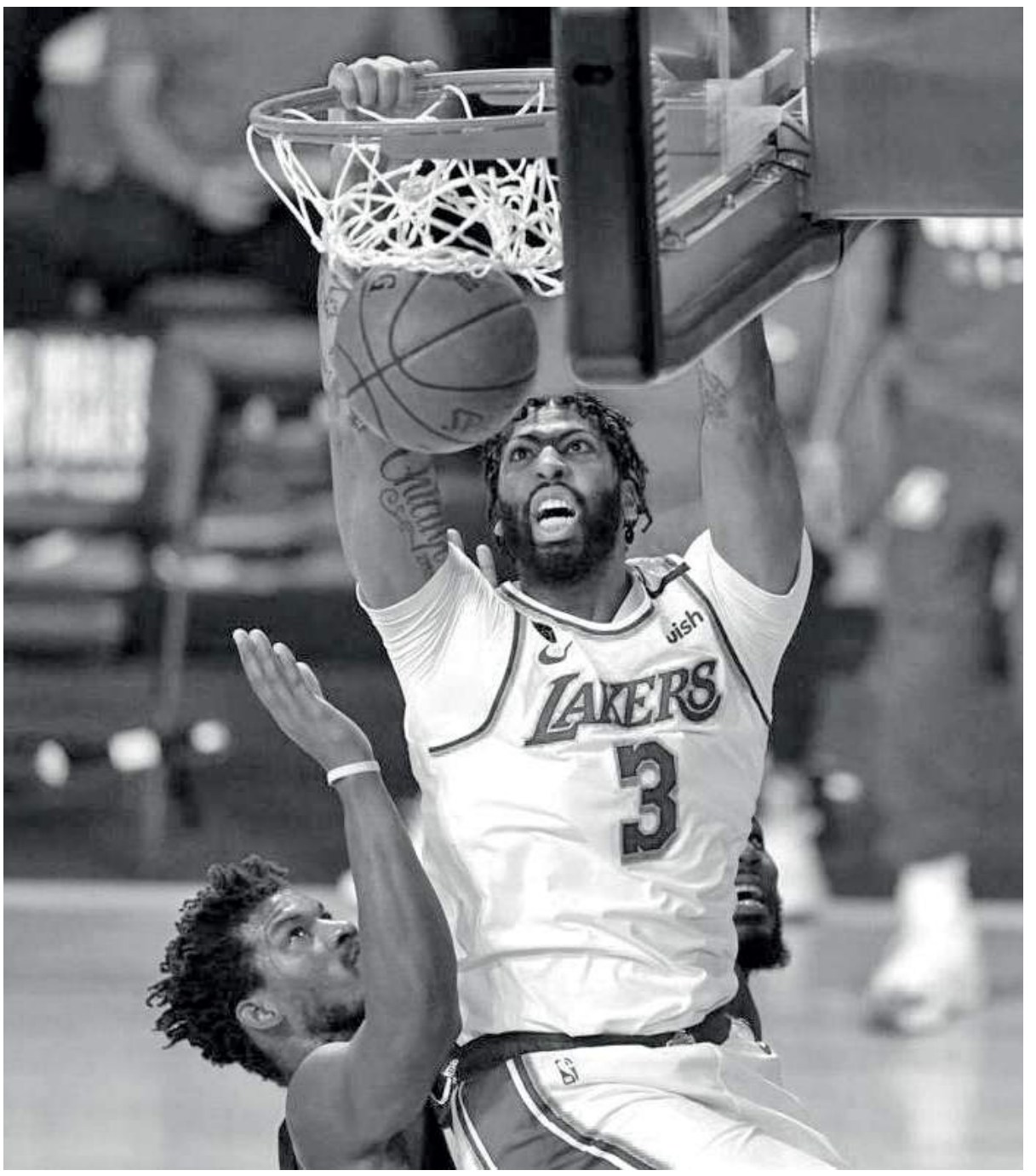
Davis simply is not walking away from any of this. It's not just my opinion, good luck finding anyone in an NBA front office that expected Davis to be in play this summer. Once he engineered the trade to the Lakers, he was staying. Winning a ring just further sealed the deal.

So does how close Davis has become with LeBron.

"Me and Bron's relationship, we're always close. You guys know that," Davis said. "I got to L.A., he's the first one to text me, congratulate me, invite me to his house. We kind of celebrated then. We've just grown over this past full kind of year, especially here in the bubble, because we were around each other every day. So we were able to really connect off the floor [in a way] that you might not have a chance to do it when you're in L.A…

"Learning from him helped me be in these moments. I don't know if he learned anything from me. I mean, he has kind of seen it all, been through it all. But just being around him, the way he acts and the way he leads and the way he enjoys life, being around his family and enjoying the game of basketball, it just pushed me to become a better person and a better player."

That doesn't sound like someone leaving the Lakers.



AP

Los Angeles Lakers' Anthony Davis (3) dunks against Miami Heat's Jimmy Butler, left, and Jae Crowder, partly hidden, during the first half in Game 6 of the NBA Finals Sunday, Oct. 11, 2020, in Lake Buena Vista, Fla.

### Future is bright for Heat

Jimmy Butler and Goran Dragic had their arms slung over the other's shoulders as they walked out of the arena following the final game of Miami's season, helping each other in the most painful of moments.

That was the Heat way all year long.

A bunch of strangers at the start of the season forged intense bonds over the next 12 months, and the result was a surprising run to the NBA Finals. Another Eastern Conference championship banner will be swaying in Miami soon, and there is no doubt that the Heat will enter next season—whenever it starts—believing that they're among the favorites to win the 2021 NBA title.

The Heat went from 10th in the East last season to second in the NBA this season, falling to the Los Angeles Lakers in six games in the NBA Finals. Butler arrived in the summer of 2019 and immediately felt a bond with Heat coach Erik Spoelstra and team president Pat Riley, convinced that Miami was the place where he could be himself—tough-minded, strong-willed, no-nonsense, and have it not only be appreciated but embraced, something that wasn't always the case at his other career stops in Chicago, Minnesota and Philadelphia.

"I think that's what we're all looking for, right, is to be part of a family," Spoelstra said during the final postgame news conference of the season. "To be a part of something where you felt all along that you were searching for something. Where you can just be yourself, you don't have to make any apologies for who you are. We have been searching for him for a long time and I think he's been searching for something like us for a while." ***(AP/NBC)***

# *NBA offseason begins: Now what?*

**FLORIDA** (AP)—The season's first big development came with the Los Angeles Lakers on a long road trip, in a place with very restrictive rules. The season's last big development came with the Lakers on a longer road trip, in a place with very restrictive rules.

From China to Disney, this was an NBA season like none other—and quite probably like none ever again.

The NBA offseason has officially started, the bubble at Walt Disney World is closed and the Lakers have their 17th championship. Nobody knows everything that will happen over the coming weeks as far as how rosters and coaching staffs will be reshaped. As a bonus this year, nobody knows when anything will happen, either.

But while a difficult season is over, the difficulties the league and players face are not. The coronavirus pandemic is still raging. The players fight against racial inequality and their quest for social justice, which were top priorities of this NBA restart, continue. And while nobody knows when the next NBA game is, the Lakers' LeBron James began looking forward during the trophy ceremony celebrating his fourth title.

"Everybody from the NBA, the NBPA, putting this thing together and us using our voices, us being together ... we know we all want to see better days," James said.

The priority, for the last seven months, was getting through the pandemic safely and salvaging the season. That happened; a champion was crowned, a bubble was built and nobody tested positive for three months inside that NBA campus in large part because of extremely tight regulations surrounding conduct and safety. Now comes a quick pivot toward figuring out all things related to money for next season such as the salary cap and luxury tax lines, as well as when teams can resume play—and where.

"These issues are a bit complicated and difficult in many cases," NBA Commissioner Adam Silver said. "But there's no reason to believe that with our counterparts at the (National Basketball) Players Association that we won't be able to work through them."

Not everything was unexpected this season: The Lakers were not a surprise champion, Milwaukee's Giannis Antetokounmpo was not a surprise to win his second consecutive MVP award, Houston's James Harden was not a surprise to be the scoring champion for the third year in a row.

That's not to say there were no surprises: Miami became the first No. 5 seed to reach the NBA Finals, Golden State lost practically everyone to injury and plummeted to the bottom of the league in what basically was a reset year, the San Antonio Spurs weren't in the playoffs for the first time in 23 years and Doc Rivers—long considered one of the league's best coaches—got fired by the Los Angeles Clippers, then quickly hired by the Philadelphia 76ers.

But this year will be remembered for the shocking developments: The conflict between the NBA and China that started last October after a tweet from Houston general manager Daryl Morey in support of anti-government protesters in Hong Kong and how the Lakers and Brooklyn Nets (who were in China at the time) got caught in that hailstorm; the death of commissioner emeritus David Stern on Jan. 1; the death of Kobe Bryant on Jan. 26; and then the shutdown of the season on March 11 after Utah's Rudy Gobert became the first of many in the league to test positive for coronavirus. Play stopped for 4-1/2 months, a bubble was built, 171 more games were played but no more tickets were sold.

"It has been an emotional roller coaster for certainly our players and for me, for the entire community, for that matter," NBPA executive director Michele Roberts said. "Between Stern's death, Kobe's death, the virus—which is just the most vicious entity I've ever come across—and then what's happening in the streets ... the tendency to want to just stay under the covers, I don't have to fight it every day. But there are days when I say 'Oh God, I was having such a great dream, why did I have to wake up?'"

What happens next is largely up to Roberts and Silver.

Other entities will be involved, but they are the two leaders who found a way to get this season done and now are tasked with making next season happen.

"We can't thank the NBA enough for this whole experience," Heat coach Erik Spoelstra said. "This has just been extraordinary."

Chances are, whatever happens next will have to be extraordinary as well.

# Brees, Lutz lift Saints past Chargers in OT

**NEW ORLEANS** (AP)—Drew Brees keeps coming through in the clutch in his 20th season, while the Los Angeles Chargers keep squandering the heady play of promising rookie quarterback Justin Herbert.

The 41-year-old Brees became the oldest quarterback with more than 32 completions in an NFL game, Wil Lutz kicked a 36-yard field goal in overtime and New Orleans' defense stopped receiver Mike Williams just short on fourth down to preserve a 30-27 victory over the seemingly star-crossed Chargers on Monday night.

"This is how you grow as a team. This is how you become battle-tested — and I think it pays dividends as you move along," said Brees, who rushed for a 1-yard touchdown and hit tight end Jared Cook for a 41-yard score as the Saints rallied from a 17-point, second-quarter deficit.

"These are the tests that really bring a team together and give you confidence and give you momentum and really shape you," Brees continued. "We know if we can put ourselves in position to win, then we can do that."

Figuring that out is proving to be a painful process for the Chargers (1-4), who fell to their fourth straight loss by a touchdown or less, and the second in overtime. They also blew a 17-point lead for a second straight game.

"Never thought this team would lose four straight. We've put ourselves in position, but we didn't get it done," Chargers coach Anthony Lynn said. "We have to finish these damn games."

Chargers kicker Michael Badgley, who missed his first career point-after kick wide right in the first quarter, had a chance to redeem himself after Williams' leaping catch between two defenders put the Chargers on the Saints' 32-yard line in the final seconds. But Badgley's 50-yard kick as time expired bounced off the right upright.

"The young man has been kicking outstanding. He's got to do better but we could have done some other things better," Lynn said.

Herbert's fourth touchdown pass of the game, a 64-yarder to Williams, briefly put Los Angeles back in front before the Saints (3-2) tied it on Taysom Hill's 9-yard run with 52 seconds left in regulation.

Herbert, who was named the starter for the remainder of the season this week, finished 20 of 34 for 264 yards without an turnover. Five of his completions went to Williams for 109 yards and two TDs.

"It's a learning process," Herbert said. "Losing is horrible, but we are going to turn it around."

Brees finished 33 of 47 for 325 yards, including 12 completions to Emmanuel Sanders for 122 yards. Alvin Kamara had 119 yards from scrimmage, highlighted by his leaping, juggling catch along the right sideline over the head of safety Rayshawn Jenkins to set up Hill's tying TD.

AP
New Orleans Saints quarterback Drew Brees (9) dives over the goal line for a touchdown in the first half of an NFL game against the Los Angeles Chargers in New Orleans, Monday, Oct. 12, 2020.

Brees improved to 4-0 against the Chargers, the team that drafted him in 2001 and let him go in 2006.

The Chargers became the first team to lose 17-point leads in consecutive weeks since the 2003 Atlanta Falcons. For the Chargers, both have come on the road against an NFC South team led by a quarterback older than 40.

In Week 4, it was Tampa Bay's Tom Brady, a six-time Super Bowl winner. This week it was the NFL's all-time leader in completions, yards and touchdowns.

Brees' dive over a pile of linemen at the goal line made it 20-10 14 seconds before halftime.

## Prescott has successful surgery

The long road to recovery for Dallas Cowboys quarterback Dak Prescott has already started.

The team said Monday morning that Prescott had successful surgery for a dislocated right ankle, which included a compound fracture. He was expected to be released from the hospital on Monday.

As we saw with Alex Smith's injury a couple years ago, there's a higher chance of infection when a compound fracture is involved. Prescott will obviously be watched closely in the upcoming weeks. And then he'll start a complicated few months on the road back.

Meanwhile, the Cowboys reportedly signed quarterback Garrett Gilbert from the Cleveland Browns practice squad Monday afternoon.

Prescott suffered the injury, which is bound to be forever included in the history of the most stunning and graphic on-field injuries we have witnessed, when he was tackled in the third quarter by New York Giants cornerback Logan Ryan.

There were implications beyond this lost season. Prescott is on a one-year franchise tag and will enter next offseason without a contract coming off a brutal injury. The initial word is that the expected recovery time is 4-6 months.

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with an easier 25-15 triumph in the second.

The champion squad was made up of Tina Choi, Mika Kimura, Jasmine Phan, Karina Dilse, Seoyeon Wong, and Clerisse Dacumos and coached by Cesar Libut. The title win capped GCA's domination of the season, as it finished the elimination round with an impressive 15-1 record, absorbing its lone loss in the competition at the hands of eventual third placer Mt. Carmel School.

The Lady Eagles went on to avenge their defeat to the Lady Knights after prevailing in the semis game in the winner's bracket and getting the first finals ticket. GCA also won over Agape Christian School and Saipan Southern High School to advance to the title match.

The SIS Lady Geckos, on the other hand, topped MHS in their first playoff game before losing to Mt. Carmel in the next match. SIS dropped to the loser's bracket and had to beat SSHS and Rota before getting back at Mt. Carmel in the rubber to take the last finals seat.

In the title game, GCA and SIS went back and forth, but the Lady Eagles played steadier in the tightly-contested first set to win by four points. GCA picked up where it left off in the second set, holding its ground against the determined SIS crew to finish the championship game early.

Meanwhile, GCA and SIS had a rematch in the finals of the 2019-2020 season with the Lady Eagles scoring a repeat following a 25-20, 25-8 victory in the title game.

GCA wrapped up the season with an unbeaten record, as it also swept the 10-game elimination round.

The Libut-coached Lady Eagles are hoping for a three-peat this year, but the 2020-2021 competition is on hold due to COVID-19 pandemic.

## MINI

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the association's board has to meet to discuss the new schedule and work on a plan for athletes, coaches, and the people/organizations that will be involved in the preparations for the competitions at the Oleai Sports Complex's track and field.

Athletics is a medal-rich event and the CNMI has consistently sent athletes to track competitions in both the Pacific Games and Mini Games. NMA, however, fielded only a few athletes in the past editions of the Pacific Games and Mini Games, but with the CNMI hosting the latter, the Commonwealth will have more entries and better chances of winning medals.

In the 2019 Pacific Games in Apia, Samoa, Zarinae Sapong, Lia Rangamar, Traven Quitugua, and Beo Ngirchongor were the CNMI's representatives in the athletics competition. Ngirchongor and Sapong were also members of Team Marianas in the 2017 Pacific Mini Games held in Port Vila, Vanuatu. Completing the athletics squad in the Mini Games was Jamie Pangelinan.

Besides athletics, the five others sports initially included on the 2022 Mini Games program were baseball, badminton, beach volleyball, golf, and triathlon. The PCG and PGA, depending on the development with the pandemic and the travel restrictions in the region, may meet on Saipan next year to discuss other matters related to the 2022 Mini Games, including the possible addition of events in the sports program.

OCEANIA ATHLETICS ASSOCIATION
Tinian's Tyler Santos races in the 800m run in the 2019 Oceania Athletics Championships held at the Townsville Sports Reserve in Queensland, Australia.

OCEANIA ATHLETICS ASSOCIATION
Oldie Roligat competes in the long jump event.

Rays take 2-0 lead over Astros in ALCS

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AD not going anywhere, to re-sign with Lakers

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# Mini Games new sked vital

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

OCEANIA ATHLETICS ASSOCIATION
In this 2019 file photo, the CNMI's Leilani Acosta joins the women's high jump U18 contest in the Oceania Athletics Championships held at the Townsville Sports Reserve in Queensland, Australia.

Northern Marianas Athletics president Ramon Tebuteb welcomes the Pacific Games Council and Pacific Games Association's prompt decision to approve the new schedule for the CNMI-hosted Pacific Mini Games as this will give all the stakeholders the cue to move forward with their preparations for the quadrennial event.

Tebuteb said that in the past months since the COVID-19 pandemic hit, the fate of the Mini Games hung in the balance. Concerns on safety, funding, and conflict of schedules were raised and had to be considered before coming up with the decision. Fortunately, negotiations were made and the parties involved, including the CNMI government, Northern Marianas Sports Association, and the 22 PGA members, agreed to have the competition from June 17 to 25 in 2022 instead of June 2021.

"The Mini Games is indeed coming to the CNMI in 2022," said Tebuteb, whose sport is one of the six events initially included in the program for the 2022 Mini Games.

"It's a bitter-sweet one for me, personally. I am happy that we will be able to go ahead with the hosting of the Mini Games for the first time, but we have to do the preparations under these challenging situation—with the threat of the pandemic still there. Bottomline, this undertaking (hosting of the Mini Games), will require the help and cooperation of everyone in our community so we will be able to deliver the Games and battle through this pandemic," the former lawmaker said.

As for NMA, Tebuteb said

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OCEANIA ATHLETICS ASSOCIATION
In this 2019 file photo, the CNMI's Oldie Roligat, fifth left, competes in the U18's 100m race.

## Flashback: Lady Eagles soar

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

On this day, two years ago, the short-handed Grace Christian Academy clinched the girls high school division title in the 2018-2019 PSS Interscholastic Volleyball League.

GCA, which played in the finals minus its four key players, faced perennial rival Saipan International School and needed only two sets to bag the championship. The Lady Eagles labored through a 25-21 victory in the first set and completed the sweep

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SAIPAN TRIBUNE
In this 2018 file photo, Grace Christian Academy's Karina Dilse kneels to receive the ball during the second set of their game against Saipan International School in the girls high school finals of the 2018-2019 PSS Interscholastic Volleyball League at the Marianas High School Gymnasium.